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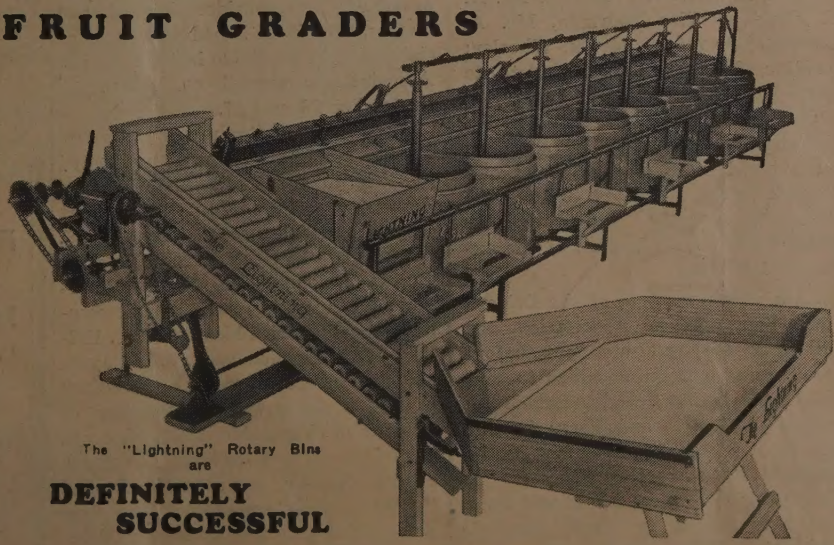
Vol. 46. No. 10 OCTOBER 5th, 1945 Price 6d.

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| South Australian News and Notes | Potato Growing Competitions |
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| Fruitgrowing in Shepparton | Seasonable Orchard Work |
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West Australian News

Growers Seek Continuance of Acquisition in 1946, and Reconstitution of Apple and Pear Board Afterwards :: Extra Advances Needed on 1945 Payments :: News and Notes.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Perth (18/9/45).

SUPPLY OF ORANGES during the month has varied. Early on, practically all realised maximum market prices, but later the small and inferior lines were hard to clear. Mandarins are short, but Lemons are equal to the demand. There has been an excellent supply of Pineapples, which are retailing at 9d. and 9½d. a lb. Strawberries are also on offer from 4/- to 4/6 a punnet. Passion-fruit and Cape Gooseberries are short, as are Carnarvon Bananas. Tomatoes from Geraldton have also been in short supply, and all good lines have fetched the maximum price. Apples continue to sell readily at Board rates.

Some growers of Tomatoes have expressed surprise at not receiving top rates for their shipments, but in most cases where surprise has been expressed it has been found that the excess size and bad packing shape of the Tomato has prevented the case being of full weight.

A shipment of Coconuts, the first since pre-war days, met with a ready demand when offered recently. Maximum wholesale price (metropolitan area) has been fixed at £4/10/- per 100; retail 1/- for nuts weighing 1 lb. or under, and 1/3 for those over 1 lb. Maximum wholesale and retail prices of Bananas have been increased by 2d. per lb.

Organised Marketing.

At a recent meeting of the Donnybrook Fruitgrowers' Association there was a consensus of opinion against any return to the pre-war method of marketing Apples and Pears, particularly in the export trade, and the following motion was carried for submission to the annual conference of the W.A. Fruitgrowers' Association: This conference asks the Federal Government to revive the Australian Apple and Pear Board with a majority of grower members to take over when acquisition is discontinued. That an election to elect members thereto be held as soon as practicable. That this Board be given power by Statute

to fix and control margins of profit on cases, paper, sprays and other orchard requisites on a basis fair to growers and suppliers power to allot and control shipping space available to States and growers on an equitable basis; power to fix commission charges and profit margins on Apples and Pears sold by exporters, agents and wholesalers; also should it be necessary this Board to operate as the marketing commission agent on behalf of the grower.

Continued Acquisition Desired.

In view of the uncertainty regarding shipping and the export position generally, the meeting urged the continuance of acquisition for 1946.

At the annual meeting of members of the Manjimup Fruitgrowers' Association, it was decided to support the retention of the Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme, providing the price for 1946 be 5/- per case. Election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Mr. A. C. Chatley; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. Edwards; Secretary, Mr. R. Wheeler; Auditor, Mr. A. Bott; Delegate to State Executive, Mr. A. C. Chatley.

Complaints were voiced that the National Service Office had not done all it could in supplying labour, and concern was expressed that local mills were only budgeting for 800,000 fruit cases instead of the expected 1,300,000.

At a recent meeting of the Bridgetown Fruitgrowers' Association, the following proposal was put before members as a basis on which to consider a Marketing Board to handle the output of Apples and Pears in this State:—1. Acquisition scheme to be replaced by marketing scheme. 2. Personnel of present Apple and Pear Board to remain for first year. 3. Marketing Board to consist of a Superintendent (to be a permanent officer) and four Grower Representatives, the latter to be elected by growers every two years. 4. Fruit to be marketed through every available channel; fruit for factory to be purchased by the Commonwealth Go-

vernment. 6. Board charges to be such as to allow a fund to be created so as to make advance payments to growers; when this fund reaches a pre-determined figure excess moneys to be returned to growers in the form of a bonus on deliveries on that year. 7. If necessary, State Government to be approached to make advances against overseas sales to enable growers to carry on. No fruit to be auctioned by the Board; not more than two Government representatives on Board.

It was decided that the President (Mr. A. Flintoff) and Messrs. E. S. Hester, C. P. and M. Scott, and the Secretary (Mr. R. Doust) should go fully into the proposal and then submit a motion for the agenda at the annual conference in Perth.

Higher Advances Sought.

The President of the W.A. Fruitgrowers' Association (Mr. J. McN. Martin), states that his Association hopes for early results from its request for extra advances for Apple and Pear growers in respect of the 1945 acquisition. Extra advances have been sought, and representations have been continually renewed and promulgated vigorously. Recently a deputation approached Mr. Forde (Acting Minister for Commerce) who promised a reconsideration of the matter, and it is hoped that his decision will be available in time for the Association's annual conference on September 26 and 27.

The Fruit and Produce Auctioneers' Association Ltd, has recently changed its title to the Fruit and Produce Agents' Association Ltd. At its first annual general meeting, Mr. F. W. Lantzke was re-elected President, with Mr. G. Bloomfield as Deputy-Chairman. Messrs. Lantzke and Bloomfield, together with Messrs. N. T. Helliar, M. J. Scanlon and F. A. Payne, recently left to attend the conference of the Commonwealth Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries in Adelaide. It is hoped that a branch of the Chamber may soon be formed in W.A., thus completing the final link throughout the Commonwealth.

The maximum penalty of £500 was imposed on Basil Michael Manifis in the Perth Police Court recently, when he was charged with having knowingly and wilfully understated the amount of income derived by the partnership of Manifis Bros., during the year ended June 30,

1943. Defendant, with three brothers, trading as Basil's, conducts three fruit shops in Perth.

Personal.

Mr. H. A. Baker, Secretary of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board, is at present visiting Perth on business.

Messrs. K. R. Porteous and T. H. Rose recently left for Adelaide to attend a meeting of the Federal Potato Advisory Committee.

Mt. Barker Fruitgrowers' Association.

At the annual meeting of the Mt. Barker Fruitgrowers' Association in mid-September, the President, Mr. J. McN. Martin gave a detailed report of the year's work.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. J. McN. Martin; Vice-President, Mr. T. G. Sounness; Committee: Messrs. T. Skinner, R. S. Wallace, A. N. Deane, C. Mitchell, O. A. K. Sounness, A. M. Wright, L. Davey, G. Enright, S. James, F. T. Collins, C. Sounness, H. H. Clothier, W. W. Fellows, G. G. Sounness, W. DePledge, H. C. McClure and W. Frost; Treasurer, Mr. G. Wilkie; Secretary, Mr. B. Hickling; Auditor, Mr. A. C. Hickling.

Mt. Barker Show.

A comprehensive programme has been prepared for the Mt. Barker Agricultural Show to be held on November 3.

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October 5th, 1945

JOURNEYING ONWARD

We believe it was Robert Louis Stevenson who said:

"It is more pleasurable to travel than to arrive."

There can be no greater tragedy for an individual or a Company than to arrive at a point on the road of Progress and stay there satisfied — ignoring the beckoning finger of achievement to go yet further, if only to blaze a trail for those who follow. While, as leader in its field Gerrard Wire Tying Machines Company has ARRIVED — it firmly intends to continue to TRAVEL — forward to improve and expand its already wide range of package reinforcing equipment.

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

The settling down after the capitulation by Japan is no easy matter. At the moment of writing, much publicity is directed to the troubles in Netherlands East Indies and Indo-China, but there are very real international and racial problems elsewhere.

Press correspondents and commentators who favour national developments in colonial countries in the terms of the Atlantic Charter and the "Four Freedoms" foresee that with the liberalising and educating of the native races in the countries adjacent to Australia there is a big potential market for Australian goods.

As we go to press particulars are just coming through of the conference between British and U.S.A. Economic Committees relative to the proposed loan by U.S.A. to Britain and some of the conditions connected therewith. From the brief information available it appears that U.S.A. demands a reduction in Empire preferential tariffs. The agenda is stated to include "tariffs and discriminatory arrangements; quantitative restrictions and other barriers to trade; international policy with respect to commodity agreements; control of international cartels; establishment of an international trade organisation and international co-operation in the maintenance of employment."

At the moment Australia's rehabilitation policy depends on the maintenance of the present Empire preferences or their equivalent.

The fruit industry in particular is dependent upon reciprocal trade arrangements with Empire countries.

The future of our irrigation areas is intimately bound up with this question.

Further information will be awaited regarding "the establishment of an international trade organisation and international co-operation in the maintenance of employment."

Meantime Australia does not desire to lose the substance for the shadow.

The State of Victoria passed through a hectic time, politically, at the end of September. The upshot was the resignation of the Dunstan Government. A "stop gap" Government was appointed, with Mr. Macfarlan as Premier: supply was granted on condition that an election be held in November.

PERSONAL.

Tributes to the fine work carried out by Mr. Norman Martin, M.L.A., as Minister for Agriculture in Victoria, were paid by officers of the Department at a gathering to say farewell to Mr. Martin on the eve of his departure to take up the position of Agent-General in London.

The Director of Agriculture, Mr. H. A. Mullett, detailed many of Mr. Martin's activities, including his interest in the scientific work.

Mr. W. R. Cumming is the new Minister for Agriculture in the "stop gap" Victorian Government, pending the elections on November 10.

Mr. E. J. Mackrell is the new Minister for Water Supply in place of Hon. J. G. MacDonald.

HIGH COURT CASE.

In response to several enquiries, it is regretted that no further information is available on the High Court case, Zerbe v. Commonwealth (Apple and Pear Marketing Board).

Further, it is not known when the findings of the judge will be made known.

GIFT PARCELS FOR U.K.

The Victorian Government is arranging for a continuity of its plan for the sending of gift parcels to U.K.

Provision has been made for sending 20,000 parcels this season—maximum weight 5 lb.

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Goulburn Valley News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

SEASONAL CONDITIONS are still favourable throughout the Goulburn Valley districts, although more rain is badly needed, especially for crops and pastures, as the ground is rapidly drying out. There has also been a series of light frosts, but no apparent damage is noticeable on the Apricot crop.

Ploughing and cultivating are proceeding; tractors, ploughs and cultivators are kept busy. This work is now comparatively easy (with the improved mechanism in tractors and power lift implements) to what it used to be in the olden days, when horses and single and double furrow ploughs were used.

Irrigation supplies are very satisfactory for the coming season, as all catchments are now at full capacity. Present prospects are for a good crop of fruit.

Trevatt Apricots in most orchards have set good crops, while on the other hand Moorparkes are patchy to light. There is a very good setting of Peaches of all varieties, and this crop should prove much heavier than last season. W.B.C. Pears blossom is below average, yet if the setting is good there should be a normal crop.

Packham Pears have blossomed well, and promise a good crop; but Josephines, Winter Cole and Beurre Bosc are going to be very light.

The packing of late Pears at the Ardmona cool stores has been completed. This is the first season that these Pears have been packed locally, and the business has proved to be very satisfactory: good prices for the Pears have been realised, and the keeping qualities were all that could be desired. With the advent of these

new cool stores and up-to-date packing houses, a new export and interstate business should be built up, increasing growers' income, and adding increased value to the Pear orchards.

At a meeting of Shepparton Fruit Growers' Association in August, it was decided to open negotiations with S. J. Perry and Co. for the sale of Pears.

Ardmona district decided to pack and market their own, so the contract was confined to Shepparton only.

After considerable negotiation it was decided to complete a contract for the sale of all district late Pears and for 90,000 cases of W.B.C. Pears.

Prices were as follows:—Packhams, Jos., W. Nelis, fancy grade, 8/6 (per bushel case); plain, 7/6; Winter Cole, fancy 7/6, plain 6/-; others, fancy 6/6, plain 5/6; W.B.C. Pears, fancy 6/-, plain 5/- . A provision was included to enable a further payment to be made if warranted by results.

This contract is an improvement on previous ones, and takes from Shepparton growers 10,000 cases more of W.B.C. Pears than formerly.

The provision to enable an extra payment to be made is also very welcome, and growers have reason to believe that an extra payment on W.B.C. Pears is unlikely, but a distinct possibility on late varieties.

The Shepparton Fruitgrowers' Association states:—"We are pleased to report that the supply of lug boxes has increased, and the empty case position better than during the past few seasons. The intake of Pears into the store, while leaving room for improvement, was also considerably improved, and for this we are grateful. We have some knowledge of the many difficulties with which S. J. Perry and Co. had to contend, and have no hesitation in informing our members that under the circumstances this firm has done well to have taken and handled our fruit as they did with as few hitches."

Plan for Greater Use of Goulburn River.

A movement for the formation of a Goulburn Valley Authority, charged with conservation of water, soil and forests in the Goulburn River area, has been started by the Mansfield Water Conservation Committee.

A long range plan, modelled on the Tennessee Valley, U.S.A., Co-ordinating the activities of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, the Forests Commission, the State Electricity Commission and the Soil Conservation Board, is urged by the committee.

In an appeal for the co-operation of Goulburn Valley organisations, it declares that the waters of the Goulburn (Victoria's greatest river) should be used not once, but many times.

Obituary.

We regret to report the death of John McLaren at the age of 80 years. He was one of the early pioneer fruit-growers in the Ardmona irrigation settlement, and was a highly respected citizen. He came to Australia from Scotland in 1885. He leaves a widow and family of three, one son and two daughters, to whom we wish to express our deepest sympathy.

POST-WAR PLANNING.

As a contribution to the subject of post-war planning as affecting primary industries, the General Secretary of the Queensland Cane Growers' Council (Mr. R. Muir) recently proposed that every primary industry should be organised on an industry-wide basis on lines similar to the Queensland sugar industry, where an Act, known as the Primary Producers Organisation and Marketing Act was in operation. Mr. Muir said that though the organisation was compulsory, it was left to the members to administer, solid success had resulted.

Though there had been criticism at first, the critics had become the greatest supporters.

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SEASONABLE NOTES

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Departmental Report on Seasonal Horticultural Conditions for September, 1945.

Melbourne (3/10/45).

The Victorian Department of Agric. reports as follows:—

Pruning was completed on most orchards during the month, although some fruitgrowers were unable to prune all their trees because of insufficient labour.

Light rains occurred in all orchard districts but the soil is drying out and further heavy falls are required, particularly in non-irrigated areas, to ensure that subsoil moisture will be adequate to carry fruit trees through the summer. Water storages in the Harcourt area are sufficient for the coming season, but the position in other irrigated areas is still uncertain. Peaches, Apricots, Jap. and European Plums have all blossomed heavily. Severe frost damage to Apricots and Peaches occurred in the Horsham district. Some damage occurred in the Goulburn Valley, Geelong and Werribee districts, but it is not thought to be extensive.

Pre-blossom sprays of Bordeaux mixture and lime sulphur were being applied to Pears and Apples for the control of black spot. There is a tendency to reduce the number of sprays in some of the drier inland districts where black spot is rarely a problem.

Because of the expected large Apple crop, some growers intend to remove the blossom on some of their trees and so reduce the area requiring constant attention.

Despite earlier reports, there appears to be a satisfactory blossoming of Pears in most districts. Beurre Bosc and W.B.C. in the Metropolitan area will be light.

Citrus.

The harvesting of Navel Oranges was completed in the Mildura district and is nearing completion at Swan Hill. A start has been made on the harvesting of Valencia's in these districts. There has been more than the usual amount of defoliation in citrus in the Swan Hill district. Lack of moisture in the subsoil with an in-

crease of minerals in the root zone has apparently been responsible for this condition on some properties. A fair crop of summer Lemons is expected in the Swan Hill district. The citrus crop in the Rochester area was patchy, some groves producing excellent crops, while others had only light yields.

Vines.

Bud burst in Sultana vines was uniformly good and fair crops were promised throughout the dried fruits districts. As a result of frost late in the month, severe damage occurred in some of the lower lying vineyards.

Vegetables.

Soil preparation for vegetable planting is in progress in southern vegetable districts. Peas and Beans are being planted in East Gippsland. Peas are also being planted at Werribee and on the Bellarine Peninsula. Early planted Tomatoes in northern irrigated areas were mostly destroyed by frost and will be replanted.

Some good quality Lettuces are being harvested in the Mildura district. An area of Lettuce for seed production will be planted in the Swan Hill district. Good prices are being obtained for Pumpkins grown last season in the Swan Hill district. There was much waste in Pumpkins left lying on the ground, but those stacked on racks have kept well.

IRRIGATION METHODS.

Need For Effective Watering in Root Zone :: Dangers of Over Watering.

CITRUS TREES in particular are delicate plants requiring the best possible soil conditions and the best available rootstocks, but all our care in that direction will go for naught if we do not watch our irrigation methods.

Horticultural Officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture point out that, when the water is first applied, the soil becomes water-logged, but under conditions of natural drainage the surplus water

soon drains off to lower levels, leaving the soil particles surrounded by a thick film of water. The soil is then wetted to what is known as its field capacity. If in the downward penetration of water, an impervious layer is encountered, then a zone of water-logged soil is created — in other words a water table.

The useful water is therefore, that which wets the root zone to field capacity—excess water either wets layers of soil below the root zone and is then no use to the tree, or worse still, it creates a dangerous water table when held up by a clay layer.

Just as there is a limit to the amount of water which can usefully be added to the soil of a citrus grove, so there is a limit to the amount which can be withdrawn from it by the tree. Quite often irrigators believe that long intervals between irrigation, as is unavoidable in some districts where the water roster is arranged for some other crop, can be overcome by adding excess water.

This is not only wasteful, but positively dangerous. Further, it is a common mistake for growers to think that when the soil moisture in the root zone is becoming exhausted the tree will send roots down rapidly searching for water below this zone and so use any excess water applied. The truth is that the roots of a tree become established only in that zone which is favourable for growth of roots throughout the year.

It is a simple matter to determine the duration of irrigation necessary to wet the soil to a required depth and to determine the amount of side spread in that time so that the spacing of furrows can be worked out. The point is that different soil types

require different times to irrigate and different spacing of furrows.

The next factor requiring consideration is the length of the irrigation run. For example, furrows for citrus in sandy soils, should not exceed four chains and in sandy loams six chains. The danger to be avoided here is excessive penetration at the beginning of the run and too shallow penetration at the end, and this is a very common fault.

Valuable information on irrigation problems is supplied in a pamphlet "A Message to Irrigators" published by the Victorian Department of Agriculture. Copies of the pamphlet will be supplied free of charge on application to the Director of Agriculture, Melbourne, C.2.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Apple Prospects Good :: Effects of Floods.

Perth (11/9/45).

In his report for the month of August, the Supt. of Horticulture, Mr. H. R. Powell states as follows:—

Rainfalls for the month were generally very heavy and in some districts flood conditions, similar to those in June, were experienced. The heaviest rainfall was in the Mundaring inspectorate where 1,344 points of rain were recorded.

The floods caused some damage to orchards, particularly citrus trees and there has been some loss of soil through erosion. Owing to the ground being water-logged for so many weeks, it is expected that losses of trees, due to sour-sap will be numerous.

Over 12 in. of rain fell in the Swan Valley District and vineyards situated in the low lands adjacent to the Swan River have been submerged for a long period. In this district the growth of cover crops for green manuring is irregular and Tick Beans and Peas both have been poor. Lupins have done very well in spite of the wet.

The harvesting of Navel Oranges is almost complete and supplies of Valencia's are being forwarded from some districts. The chief fruits harvested

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during the month were Navels, Jopas and other Common Oranges, Valencia, Beauty of Glen Retreat Mandarins, Lemons and Grapefruit.

Flowers and foliage of early Peaches and Almonds in some districts have been affected fairly severely with shot-hole. In other districts, brown rot caused the loss of many leaves from citrus trees. In the deciduous orchards, growers have taken every opportunity to spray either with red oil or lime sulphur to control San Jose scale.

In most districts, the N.Z. Blue Lupin has made excellent growth and there will be a large number of excellent cover crops to be ploughed under.

The buds on Apple trees promise well for the coming season as they are good on most varieties with the exception perhaps of Granny Smith. Those trees which carried heavy crops of fruit last year are not showing good bud development this year. It is quite possible, however, that the buds produced, though small, will be

quite capable of flowering and setting fruit.

There has been a tendency in some districts for Peaches and Nectarines to throw their buds. A number of varieties of Japanese Plums including Delaware and Satsuma are now in full bloom, others promise to follow suit shortly. In the Bridgetown District parrots have caused some damage to fruit trees by destroying their buds.

CODLING MOTH OF PEARS.

In October, Pear growers will be commencing their seasonal spray applications against the codling moth. Investigations of the problem, conducted by the Biological Branch of the Victorian Department of Agriculture have shown the following factors to be of major importance in determining the success of any campaign against this pest:—

1. The calyx spray must be applied at petal fall and not delayed simply

because the calyces of Pears do not close rapidly.

2. Cover sprays, to be effective, must be applied prior to periods of maximum egg hatching. Until it is possible to make general use of more accurate methods of forecasting these periods, lure records must be relied on as a basis for timing sprays. Lures, however, should be examined at least twice each week and growers will need spray equipment of sufficient capacity to complete spray applications within five to seven days of the period of maximum egg laying.

3. Thorough spraying means that each tree must be thoroughly wetted, particular attention being paid to the top and centre of the tree.

4. Lead arsenate-white oil mixtures are more effective than lead arsenate in controlling codling moth. These combination sprays should consist of lead arsenate paste 5 lb., or powder 2½ lb. plus 4 pints of white oil emulsion in 80 gallons of water. Some growers have been deterred from

using such combination sprays because of "flocculation" which occurs in the spray vat when certain brands of lead arsenate are mixed with certain types of oil. This "flocculation" consists of the formation of large flakes throughout the water phase. Each flake is a mass of oil droplets coated with lead arsenate particles. It has been determined, however, that unless the agitation is so poor as to allow settling, this purely physical phenomenon of "flocculation" has little bearing on the actual spray deposit achieved. The practice of using spreaders either in such combination sprays to prevent "flocculation" or in codling sprays generally, will result in lowered spray deposits and consequently inferior control.

5. Every effort should be made to eliminate the first brood. By so doing, there is little danger of severe second brood attack, and in many cases second brood sprays may not be necessary. In order to achieve this, however, orchardists must pay strict attention to the factors already discussed. While infestations vary greatly from one orchard to the next, most growers would be well advised to use the lead arsenate-white oil combination sprays for at least the two sprays following the calyx spray (i.e., the first and second cover sprays) if a high degree of control of first brood grubs is desired. Where severe infestations have been experienced in the past, each spray, including the calyx spray, should consist of lead arsenate-white oil mixtures, until the infestation has been reduced.

HORTICULTURE IN POST-WAR YEARS.

Surveys to be Made of Vine Fruit, Citrus and Irrigated Fruit Industries.

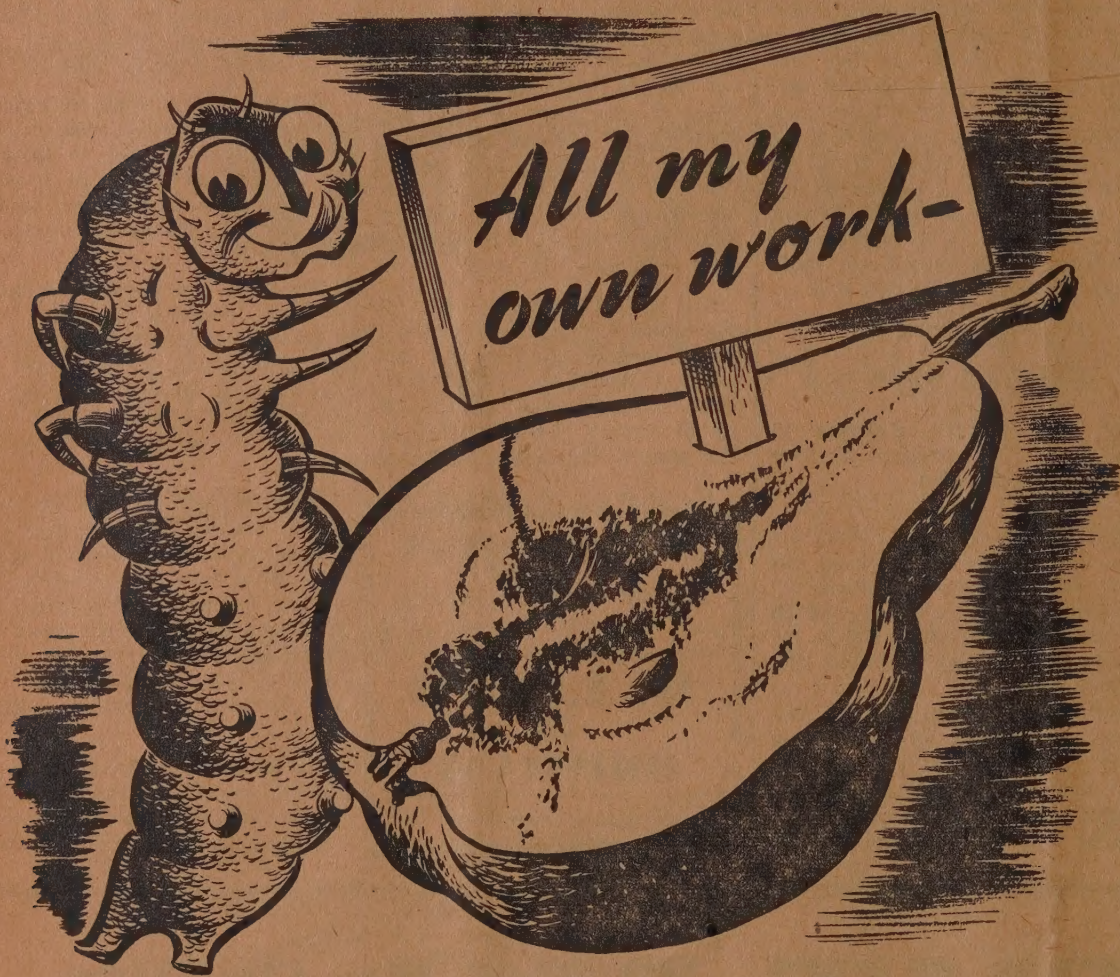
At its meeting in Adelaide in September, the Australian Agricultural Council decided to request the Irrigation Production Advisory Committee to make a survey on the economics of the dried vine fruit, citrus, irrigated fruits and vine industries.

In making this announcement, the chairman, Mr. Forde, who is also Acting Minister for Commerce and Industry, said there did not appear to be any opportunity for the opening of new dried vine fruit producing areas (except for a very limited area for Gordos for the seeded Raisin trade). The only possible expansion in dried tree fruits was the limited one for Prunes and Apricots.

NEW ZEALAND.

The total crop of Apples and Pears in N.Z. in 1945, handled by the Internal Marketing Division, was 2,270,000 cases, which was about 314,000 cases less than last year.

The Australian Commissioner in N.Z. states that the British Ministry of Food enquired for 75,000 bushels of Apples. Export was not approved in view of the absence of a surplus and the British demand was met by Australia.



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Tasmanian News and Notes

APPLE AND PEAR PROSPECTS GOOD — CASE MATERIAL PROBLEMS — ACQUISITION IN 1946 — DEMAND FOR ORCHARD PROPERTIES — PROSPECTS FOR BERRY FRUITS AND POULTRY — PORT HUON WHARF TO BE REPAIRED.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Hobart (21/9/45).

The weather in the northern orchard areas has remained wet during September and interfering seriously with cultivation and spraying. Pruning is completed.

The Pears are blossoming well, but Black Spot may get ahead where spraying has been interfered with. Apples are mostly promising well, and if the weather clears up there is still time to get the greentip (usually Bordeaux) and the pink sprays on. Lime-Sulphur (1-20) is the usual in the pink.

The factories have closed for the season, and the cool stores have not much on hand. Labour is still scarce, but apparently not quite so bad as in the south.

Vegetable contracts in many instances are being cancelled as the demand for the services is slackening off considerably.

In the south the weather has continued wet and squally, with several falls of snow on the coastal hills, one as late as September 20. This has delayed all work. Cultivation is behind, and spraying difficult. Pears are blossoming well, but it is too early to guess at what the setting will be like. Apples are showing for a good blossoming, except Democrats, which are light in many places.

The fertilizer ration is about the same as last season, but the analysis is a little better.

The case material problem is worse than ever, and the chance of importing any in time for 1946 season seems small and our Forestry Department seems apathetic where the needs of the fruit industry are concerned. The paper pulp industry has large areas of beautiful timber reserved for it, but we cannot get any reserve at all so far. The policy seems wrong, and we may have to voice our displeasure at the next election. There have been several meetings of growers at the different centres to discuss post-war reconstruction, and they all have endorsed the State Fruit Board's proposals; the newly-formed Fruitgrowers' Union also supports the Board.

The Deputy Director of Service Foodstuffs, Tasmania, called a conference at Hobart on September 19 of exporting interests in this State for the forming of a subsidiary committee to assist the Federal Advisory Committee in the development of export trade, and invited representative delegates from the State Fruit Board to attend. Mr. T. G. Thompson (Chairman), and Messrs. R. H. Thompson and J. R. Abel represented the Fruit Board.

All factories have finished processing Apples for the season, and the cool stores are supplying the market. There has been very little waste this season.

The Federal Government decided to pay the growers on a tree measurement basis and not on deliveries.

In Tasmania it is hoped that the Government will acquire the 1946 crop at a reasonable price, taking increased cost of production into ac-

count, by so doing they will find employment for a large number of returned men. The transport position is so uncertain that growers will hesitate to put on much labour unless the Government does give some guarantee of a fair price.

There appears to be an increasing enquiry for various types of properties as the men are discharged from the services, and several orchard properties have changed hands, but really desirable places are few and far between, and of course the best are not for sale, and few people are willing to go back into the bush and develop a place for themselves; life is too short.

Berry fruits appear to offer the best chance for men of small means, as the returns are comparatively quick, and the area required to make a living small. There is still a lot of land suitable for berry fruits in southern Tasmania, and Strawberries, Loganberries and Black Currants are likely to be in short supply for a considerable number of years; in fact, given improved transport facilities to the mainland, markets there should be a good demand for all that are likely to be grown at present. A number of small holdings are doing well in the poultry business, especially where they grow a portion of the food on the place.

The dairying industry will take a long time to recover from the controls and regulations imposed upon it during the war, and, of course, the increased wages will retard its recovery unless prices rise sufficiently to cover increased costs. There is an acute meat shortage at present, which is likely to continue for some time in Tasmania, as although the North and South have had ample rain,

the midlands is still too dry, and stock are suffering considerably.

Port Huon Wharf.

I hear that the Government has decided to repair the Port Huon deep water wharf, which had become unusable for overseas ships. This will be a big help to the district, as most of the interstate fruit grown in the Huon should go from there.

TASMANIA.

State Fruit Board.

At the September meeting of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board there were present—Messrs. T. G. Thompson (Chairman), C. O. Smith, J. R. Abel, R. H. Thompson, D. F. Calvert, T. D. Wivell, T. Burnaby, R. O. Watson and the Secretary, Mr. A. J. Honey.

Fruit Cases.—There was a vigorous discussion in view of the estimated shortage of 2,000,000 cases. It was said the fruit industry was being overlooked. Mr. R. H. Thompson said it might be necessary to ship Apples to Sweden and Russia to establish credits for the purchase of timber. It was decided to authorise the Chairman to again approach the Minister on the case question.

Fruit Exports.—It was decided to seek representation on any body set up as a Tasmanian Export Advisory Committee, and Messrs. T. G. Thompson, J. R. Abel and R. H. Thompson were appointed delegates.

The Chairman was appointed delegate to the Export Development Group of the Hobart Chamber of Commerce.

Shortage of Fertilisers.—The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Madden) wrote stating that the position regarding supplies of petash and sulphate of ammonia were improving. There was likely to be a shortage of superphosphate for a considerable time.

Nursery Fruit Trees.—There was a discussion regarding the proposed legislation with regard to fruit tree standards, and it was decided to seek additional information from the Department of Agriculture.

APPLE AND PEAR GROWERS' UNION.

Cygnets.

A decision to form a Cygnet Branch of the Tasmanian Apple and Pear Growers' Union was made unanimously at a largely-attended meeting at Cygnet recently. The Warden (Mr. T. Burnaby), who presided, said that while acquisition in its present form would finish in 1946, growers did not desire to return to marketing their fruit independently. The Government had power to control overseas exports, but for the interstate trade growers should organise their own control, which would result in guaranteed prices.

Other speakers referred to the necessity of retaining the present prices for factory fruit; for guaranteed prices for export fruit; close unity among growers, and for effective liaison between growers and the State Fruit Board.

APPLES AND PEARS.

Acquisition in Tasmania and W.A. in 1946.

Increased Exports Forecast.

THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT would acquire all Apples and Pears in Tasmania and W.A. in 1946 was the announcement by the Acting Minister for Commerce, Mr. Forde, in Parliament on September 25. The fruit, he said, would be purchased under conditions that could be satisfactory to those engaged in the industry. Arrangements had been made for an increase in exports; the 1945 exports were 254,000 cases of Apples to U.K.

RED CROSS.

The Red Cross Society is continuing its valued services: particularly fine service was rendered to the lads who were prisoners of war. All Red Cross branches are asked to continue their activities in the raising of funds and assisting in every way possible.

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West Australian Fruit-Growers' Conference

Higher Prices Sought Under Acquisition :: Post-war Export Control Board Urged :: Fruit Case Problems.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the W.A. Fruitgrowers' Association was held at Perth on September 26 and 27. Mr. J. McN. Martin presided. The visitors included the Chairman of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board, Mr. J. B. Mills, and the Government Finance Member, Mr. R. H. Hewson.

In opening the conference the Minister for Agriculture, Hon. J. T. Tonkin, said he was pleased the Commonwealth Government had agreed to continue the acquisition plan in 1946. If necessary, the W.A. State Government would enact legislation to implement the Federal decision. There was still a severe shortage of fruit cases.

The Chairman of the W.A. Committee of the Apple and Pear Board (Mr.

Geo. Parke) said that owing to the very dry Summer only a medium crop was harvested. The total crop as measured was 1,491,956 bushels. Deliveries reached 975,000 bushels, of which 678,000 were packed. The total Pear crop was 117,754 bushels, of which 75,655 were delivered. The Granny Smith was one of the shortest crops on record in recent years. It was measured at 499,000 bushels and 420,000 were delivered.

As regards exports, after making maximum use of shipping it had been possible to export only 80,000 bushels to the Eastern States, 62,000 to U.K. and 15,000 bush. to Ceylon. Processing factories absorbed some 265,000 bushels.

Mr. R. M. Carter, State Superintendent, said that grading standards had slipped back; better packing was a job growers must tackle when labour became available.

Mr. J. B. Mills said present indications favoured a heavy Australian yield of Apples similar to that of 1941, and a big problem was looming

to co-ordinate the marketing of the heavy surpluses with non-acquisition States. Exports would be more in the way of spasmodic shipments rather than a planned programme. There was a small market in America this season, but shipping was the problem.

Big contracts for processed Apples were gone, but the Board was going ahead with dried Apples and the solid pie-Apple pack. Better standards for processed Apples were necessary.

The case for the exclusion of the Hills district Bartlett Pears from acquisition was discussed at length, but on being put to the vote, the proposal was negated.

Higher Prices Sought.

While there was a unanimous desire for higher advances under acquisition, the discussion on procedure were lengthy. Some growers considered that there should be no increase in advances on undelivered fruit but that much packed fruit was delivered under cost. Other growers

said that in view of the expected big crop in the coming season, much fruit would not be called up. Further, there was a shortage of cases; thus growers of undelivered fruit would be penalised.

It was finally decided to press for an increase of 1/- per case on delivered and 6d. on undelivered fruit.

In view of the work necessary to produce quality fruit the Executive was instructed to review the whole position of the grouping of Apples and Pears with a view to providing a group of premium varieties and sizes at an increased rate.

Other resolutions favoured end loading to prevent transit damage and also requested increased fertilizer supplies, more refrigerated tonnage, reservation of a forest area exclusively for cutting fruit cases; additional galvanised netting and fencing wire; that the 6d. account sales fee be removed.

Continuance of Controls.

Several of the Branches had submitted resolutions favouring continuance of controls. A general desire was expressed that there be no return to pre-war marketing methods. In the discussions some radical views were expressed.

It was finally decided as follows:—

1. Conference stresses the necessity of the Commonwealth Government amending the Apple and Pear Organisation Act so as to reconstitute the Australian Apple and Pear Board; appointment of members to be dealt with in a similar manner to original appointments.
2. That the Commonwealth Government be requested to grant the Australian Apple and Pear Board, when it has been reconstituted, similar powers to those at present held by the Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board, other than the power of acquisition.

Resolution (2) was referred to the Executive for further consideration; a report to be made to the branches.

Stone Fruits.

Regarding stone fruit, it was reported that Prices Officers had agreed to recommend to Canberra that there be no price-fixing in W.A.

Nursery Fruit Trees.

In reply to a proposal that fruit trees supplied by nurserymen be graded into two or three grades according to quality, the Superintendent of Horticulture (Mr. H. R. Powell) said that uniform Commonwealth Regulations regarding the sale of distribution of nursery fruit trees were now being drafted.

Pest Control.

The Government Entomologist said experiments had been made with D.D.T. for the control of curculio beetle, but there were not sufficient supplies available for growers. Arsenate of lead was a good remedy if sprayed effectively.

Mr. Powell assured delegates that all precautions were being taken to prevent introduction of pests and diseases by air.

Mr. J. McN. Martin (Mt. Barker) was re-elected president and Mr. E. Hester (Bridgetown), Vice-President.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Incorp.

The annual general meeting of the Association was held in the Shell Co.'s Theatre, North Terrace, Adelaide, on Friday, September 28, 1945, at 2 p.m.

Prior to the opening of the meeting, members stood whilst the National Anthem was played.

Mr. R. A. Cramond (President) presided over an attendance of 80 members.

The chairman welcomed to the meeting the following visitors: Professor D. B. Copland (Commonwealth Prices Commissioner), the Hon. G. F. Jenkins (State Minister of Agriculture), Colonel W. J. McCann (Deputy Prices Commissioner of South Australia), Messrs. A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist), J. J. Medley (Murray Citrus Growers' Association), C. G. Gordon (Department of Direction Defence Food Stuffs), Goyder (Bank of Adelaide), and A. Humphries ("Advertiser").

The Minister of Agriculture (Hon. G. F. Jenkins) in opening the meeting, stated that he was deputising for the Premier (Hon. T. Playford) who was out of the city. He congratulated the Association on being the strongest of its kind in the Commonwealth. His department holds the Association in the highest esteem, and he could assure them that his Department would give them every assistance in the marketing of goods overseas. The South Australian Agent General (Sir Charles McCann) had been of great assistance to growers as he was a man who thoroughly understood the position, and was always advertising the State's products.

The Minister advised growers to study the markets of the world, and their requirements. Overseas markets were good prior to the war, and those markets would soon be looking for Australian products once more. Australian fruit, well packed, would be in demand overseas, but some of the Mediterranean countries might be serious rivals in the citrus market. Growers had carried on throughout the war under difficulties, but they had been able to supply not only South Australian, but other States as well, and at a lower price to the consumers.

Mr. A. R. Martin, in moving a vote of thanks to the Minister for his very

instructive talk, said that he appreciated his remarks in regard to the Association, which was known in all States of the Commonwealth. He appealed to members to assist the executive in all matters.

Mr. C. J. Pitt, in seconding the vote of thanks, said that the Premier and his Ministers had done much to assist the Association. The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation, and the President presented the Minister with a basket of fruit, which he accepted with thanks.

The minutes of the 1944 annual meeting were read by the Minute Secretary and confirmed.

Guest Speaker (Professor D. B. Copland).

An outline of the complexities of the price fixing of vegetables and a warning that vegetables production in Australia could not be maintained on the same basis as in wartime without chaos resulting was given by the Prices Commissioner (Professor D. B. Copland).

Professor Copland said that before 1942 there had been little control of fruit and vegetables, but the entry of Japan into the war compelled its introduction. This was done in face of shortages of manpower, fertilizers and other commodities, and with an "anaemic, inefficient and disorganised," railway system to contend with. Problems fell thick and heavy upon producers, bureaucrats, politicians and consumers. Everything relating to price fixing was new to everybody; nobody could give any definite judgment, but advice had to be taken from many sources for decisions had to be made.

"No man in the early days of price fixing could tell the cost of production of vegetables. Conditions varied with every producer and every property," Professor Copland said.

Producers' Problems.

"Besides this, people thought of price control in terms of the commodities which they had to sell. One million producers had one million special problems and wanted one million special treatments. All producers got some protection, but they did not get all they wanted. The Prices Commissioner would have been a paragon of virtue if they had, but what they got was far better than nothing, for chaos could have resulted."

Professor Copland said that before the war prices for vegetables were too low and producers were not experiencing the standard of living to which they were entitled. To fix prices at the beginning, the ruling prices were taken, an increase was given to bring values to a living level and more was added to compensate for the increases in cost of production. Allowances had to be made for price fluctuations and seasonal variations, and great difficulties were experienced in attempting to adjust special instances, such as early crops in various States and Districts.

Just before price control, there was a remarkable increase in the prices for vegetables over the four-year period before the war. The peak being in 1942, when some percentage increases were:—Peas, 180 per cent.; Beans, 130; Tomatoes, 127; Celery, 54; Beetroot, 77, and Carrots, 66. These prices were not necessary and were not fair, Professor Copland said.

Prices on High Side.

He added that fixed prices for vegetables had been on the high side because there was no floor to the market and a high ceiling acted as compensation. Besides this, vegetables were wanted for civilians and the forces and prices were fixed under contract to encourage production.

Vegetable producers had done very well at the prices which had been established, and so had wholesalers and retailers. The only people who were hurt were the consumers. This was a criticism of his own administration, but nevertheless there had been great pressure from producers to keep prices up.

Professor Copland said that vegetable production had increased from 100,000 acres to 250,000 acres. It was obvious that if the market was to be maintained at a satisfactory price level, the area would have to be reduced to about 150,000 acres, the Australians could consume the produce from this acreage if they were educated to eat a proper diet.

Advocacy of a greater consumption of fruit and vegetables could be carried on with a clear conscience by growers, for this conformed with the dictates of science.

Professor Copland thanked the chairman for the opportunity of addressing members, and stated that he was very pleased with the good relations that existed between the Association and the S.A. Prices Branch.

Mr. W. J. Bishop, in moving a vote of thanks to Professor Copland for his very interesting address, said that he felt proud of the speakers' remarks in regard to the activities of the Association, and stressed the importance of attacking the problems that would confront growers now that the war had ended.

Mr. L. J. Wicks seconded the vote of thanks and he was of opinion that the industry would have suffered if price control had not been introduced. The Chairman then presented Professor Copland with a basket of fruit, which was accepted with thanks, and the members present carried the vote of thanks by acclamation.

President's Report.

The President, Mr. R. A. Cramond, submitted his annual report as follows: It is with extreme pleasure that I present to you the President's Annual Report covering the Association's activities over the past year. For the past six years we have held our annual meetings under the shadow of war clouds. During this long period we have seen the world assailed by strong evil forces which attempted to destroy everything worth while to the freedom-loving peoples of the world. We will perhaps never know how close these forces came to achieving their impious designs. We thank God for the deliverance that has been

ours, and as we meet this year, let us in our rejoicing, pause and pay reverent homage to those gallant people who have given their all that we may continue to pursue our democratic way of life, and enjoy the individual privileges such a system allows.

Their sacrifice has been a glorious example of true co-operation.

In turn I express my pleasure of the great part played by the fruit and vegetable growers in the production of essential foodstuffs so vital to the war effort. Production was greatly increased under extreme difficulties. Shortages in manpower, manures, reliable seeds, insecticides, etc., have been real problems, but despite these growers have given of their best. The Association also is justly proud of its efforts during the war period, and its assistance to growers generally and to Government instrumentalities is reflected in the high place it enjoys in the business life of this State. The Association can now be ranked as one of the strongest and most efficient of its kind in the Commonwealth.

Rapidly increasing membership is a tribute to the Association's growing importance, and shows that more and more growers are appreciating the machinery provided for them, and are realising that only through unity can they hope to weather the real problems that the post-war period will present.

Over the past year the progress made has been of a striking nature, one of the outstanding features of which has been the purchase and renovation of the building in Ebenezer Place by the trading section, the Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Society Ltd. The building is intended to house the entire activities of the Association and will provide modern facilities for supplying the needs of members. The Society, which has shown an all-time record in both turnover and profit for the financial year ended June 30 last, will now be able to greatly increase its trading facilities, and with the opening of a Growers' Co-operative selling floor the

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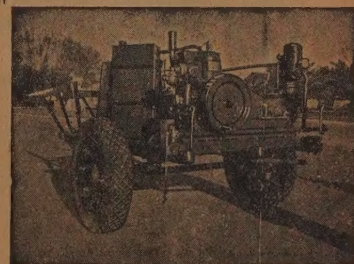
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future of the Society is very bright indeed. In addition, the Society is installing a modern fruit grader and will thereby be able to afford growers all the facilities of an up-to-date packing house. I express appreciation of the untiring service being rendered the industry by the Society Committee of Management and the Manager (Mr. L. E. Cowley) to whom all credit is due for the present day strong position of the Society.

During the year three new branches and two new sections of the Association have been formed. The branches are at Gumeracha, Port Pirie and Mt. Gambier, while the new Sections are the Vegetable and Hills Early Cauliflowers. In addition, enquiries are to hand regarding the formation

of branches in other parts of the State. The words "South Australian" prefixed to our Association name is now fully justified as our activities are State wide.

The formation during the year of a united Vegetable Section was an outstanding feature, and now the Vegetable Industry can speak with one voice on all matters affecting it. The results achieved to date by this Section have been invaluable.

The continued operations of the Apple and Pear Section in conducting a voluntary marketing plan are worthy of the highest commendation.

Mr. R. G. Bartram's efforts in directing the scheme have been outstanding, and Apple growers generally must now realise that the ef-

forts of the Apple and Pear Committee and officers has most definitely stabilised an industry which, on the sudden cessation of Apple and Pear acquisition was faced with chaotic conditions. With the ending of the war attention must now be given to overseas as well as local marketing, and the Committee has been busy crystallising plans for the future of the industry. Consequently, much still has to be done, and the full and real co-operation of every grower is most essential.

Potato growers have also been very busy preparing for the post-war period, for as you are aware, Potato control introduced under National Security (Potatoes) Regulations will terminate at the end of the 1945/46

season. A plan submitted by our Secretary for post-war reconstruction of the Potato industry has been adopted by the Federal Potato Advisory Committee as a basis for consideration in this matter. The problems confronting an Australian-wide marketing scheme are many and real, but not insurmountable if bravely faced by men of courage and clear thinking ability.

The Tomato Section have again had to face a serious problem resulting from disastrous frosts. This has been the second year in succession that this problem has arisen. Despite this, however, the Section has been able to maintain contact with interstate markets, and keep up its reputation for a quality product.

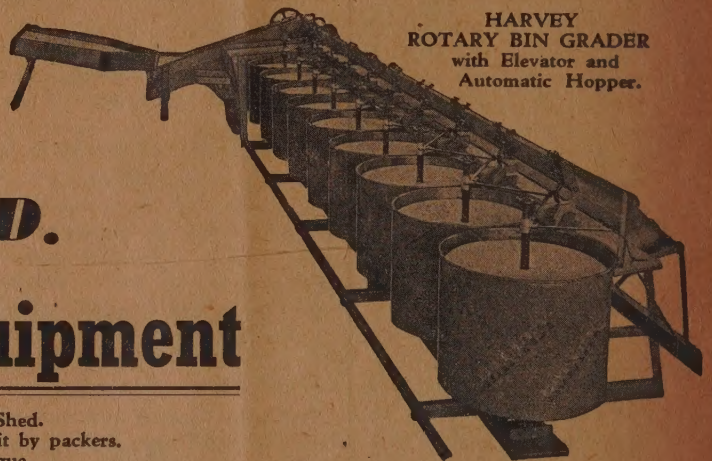
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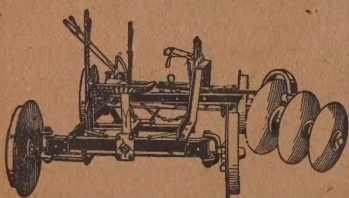
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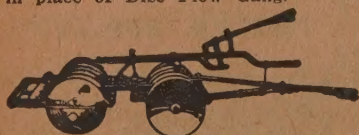


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S.A.—Cole & Woodham, Box 12, Renmark.

Southern Tasmania—Wm. Crosby & Coy. Pty. Ltd., Collins St., Hobart.
Northern Tasmania—Max Geaves, 177 Brisbane St., Launceston.
Queensland—Buxacott (Queensland) Ltd., 443 Adelaide St., Brisbane.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL MEETING—(Continued).

The Celery Section has also had its problems. The determining of prices on a count basis in the opinion of the Committee has not been satisfactory, but was unsuccessful in its attempts to have prices determined on a weight basis. The Committee, however, intends to pursue its endeavours to have the weight basis accepted, as it is felt this method would be more equitable to all concerned.

The Cherry Section enjoyed a fairly good season, but transport delays caused losses of fruit. Manpower shortages, and rough weather also resulted in loss of fruit. Canners were very busy during the last season, and more Cherries than ever before were used for canning. This outlet was greatly appreciated by growers, as the season yielded good to heavy crops.

The citrus growers have also been subject to Control measures, and the part played by the Society in providing a forwarding depot for factory requirements has been appreciated. Frost damage with citrus fruits was extreme.

Other Sections of the Association interested mainly in local marketing have all placed a valuable part during the year.

To all Sections and Branches I say thank you for services well done on behalf of their members. Rewards for their efforts over many years are now manifest in the importance of the Association and the reputation widely gained for South Australian produce.

Despite all we have achieved we cannot rest on our laurels. Tremendous developments in the production, presentation and marketing of our produce are possibilities for future activities. We must use every endeavour to raise the quality and standard of our lines, and see they are distributed widely to the consuming public at prices well within the range of all incomes, and at the same time assuring the producer of a steady basic income.

This Association, as you know, is a member of the S.A. Chamber of Rural Industries, and we have great faith in the part this body is destined to play in the rural activities of our State. The Chamber recently was requested by the Federal Government to appoint two delegates to the S.A. Export Advisory Committee, and we have great pride in the fact that Mr. W. J. Bishop a past President of our Association was one of the two delegates appointed by the Chamber.

We regret sincerely the passing of a very valued member of the Executive Committee, Mr. W. H. Ind. He was President of the Association during 1929-30, and was also a foundation member of Society Committee of Management.

I must express the appreciation of the Association to all who have contributed towards the interests of the Association and the industries it represents. To the Chief Horticulturist (Mr. A. G. Strickland) we are deeply appreciative for his regular attendance at our monthly meetings, and for his ready advice, and assistance on many problems associated with production, etc. His recent talk on D.D.T. and 666 was of great interest to us.

To the various sectional Chairmen and Committee and members of the Executive Committee, I say thanks for the loyal and efficient services they have rendered their fellow growers, also the co-operation they have afforded me during my term as President.

My successor, Mr. A. R. Martin, is well known to you, and under his leadership I know the Association will continue its rapid expansion. His efforts as Chairman of the Celery Section have stamped him as a man fit in every way to carry out the important duties of President of the Association. In the Vice-President elect, Mr. C. L. Winser, we have a man of ability and foresight as his chairmanship of the Apple and Pear Section has demonstrated.

To the members of the staff I express our grateful thanks for services rendered. We owe them much, for it is realised they are the ones that execute the work and implement the Association's policy, and this at times under great difficulties and at much personal sacrifice.

In conclusion, I desire to express my sincere appreciation of the honour you have bestowed on me by electing me as your President during the past two years. I wish the Association and its allied activities every success in its future endeavours.

Financial Statement: The Secretary read the Annual Balance Sheet and Auditors' Report, which were accepted, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. R. Martin.

Election of Officers: The following members were elected as office-bearers for the ensuing twelve months:—President, Mr. A. R. Martin; Vice-President, Mr. C. L. Winser; Committee—Messrs. L. B. Pfeiffer, H. N. Wicks, N. T. Hobbs, C. J. Pitt, L. J. Wicks, W. J. Bishop, G. H. Schultz, J. Turner, J. B. Randell and H. B. Robson; Immediate Past-President, Mr. R. A. Cramond; Auditor, Mr. S. R. Hosking.

The incoming President was welcomed to the chair by the retiring President, who congratulated him on his appointment. Mr. Martin suitably responded.

Sectional and Branch Reports.

Marion Branch: An invitation was extended to all members to visit the Marion Branch on October 3.

Potato Section: Mr. C. J. Pitt said that members of the Potato Advisory Committee, who were recently in Adelaide, wished to thank the Association for the visits arranged by the Association for their benefit.

Onkaparinga Branch: Mr. B. A. Schapel said that growers were busy on work for next season, and that their membership was increasing.

Life Member: It was decided, on the motion of Messrs. J. Turner and W. J. Bishop, that Mr. A. O. Peterson be made a Life Member.

General Business.

Mr. G. Ragless moved: "That the Executive consider the question of writing to the Press and explaining that the S.A. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries was in no way connected with the S.A. Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association, and point out that the meetings held recently were merchants meetings, and the motions carried were merchants decisions." Mr. F. Halliday seconded the motion, which was carried.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the retiring President (Mr. R. A. Cramond). This was seconded by Mr. W. J. Bishop and carried with acclamation.

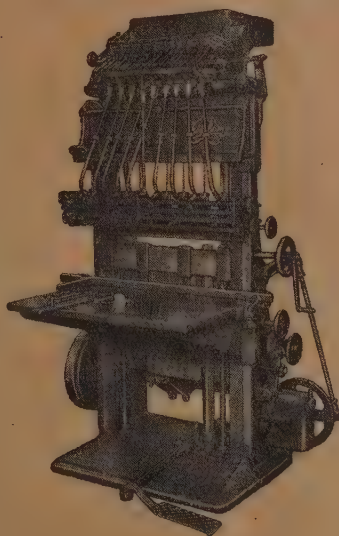
Prior to the closing of the meeting the Chairman thanked members for their attendance, and moved that a minute of appreciation be recorded in the books for the generosity of the Shell Company in placing their theatre at the disposal of the Association to hold their Annual Meeting. This was carried by acclamation. The meeting closed.

S.A. FRUITGROWERS' AND MARKET GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Newmarket Board Room on September 28, 1945.

Mr. R. A. Cramond (President) presided. Also present:—Messrs. H. R. Robson, B. Schapel, A. E. Brealey, J. Turner, W. J. Bishop, C. J. Willsmore, A. Hersey, R. B. Pritchard, G. H. Schultz, W. Wye, R. Spargo, J. D. Yeatman, M. H. Cutting, A. D. McAllan, F. A. Halliday, A. R. Martin, L. J. Wicks, O. A. Carlsson, G. J. Strange, A. J. Hollister, J. A. Randell, H. N. Wicks, C. J. Pitt, M. G. Hannaford, O. Esselbach, N. T. Hobbs and A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist). Apologies were received from Messrs. L. Pethick and C. L. Winser.

The minutes of the August meeting as reported in the "Fruit World" were confirmed.



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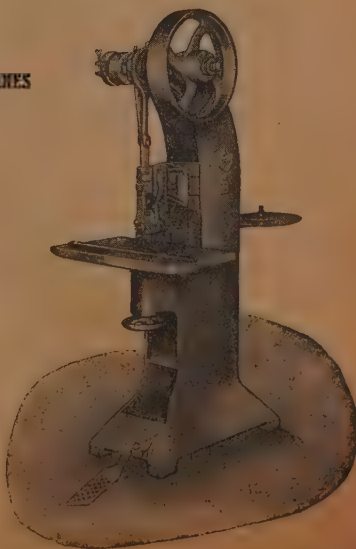
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Correspondence.

The Shell Company advised the Association that the Shell Theatre was available for the Annual Meeting.

A letter from the Metropolitan County Board in reference to spray on Apples was received, and it was decided to publish same in the "Fruit World" for information of members.

The Chamber of Rural Industries wrote in reference to employment in industries and manpower releases. The Secretary reported that members had been circularised with a view to getting the information asked for, which would then be forwarded to the Chamber.

The Secretary to the Premier wrote stating that a grant had been made to growers who had suffered through damage from frost, and asking for one member to be nominated from the Association to act on the Committee, who would be administering the relief. Mr. A. R. Martin was appointed, Mr. L. J. Wicks withdrawing in favour of Mr. Martin.

Mr. J. Ryan wrote to the Association asking for information re the Association's activities. The Secretary read a letter in which he replied to Mr. Ryan, and also a further letter from Mr. Ryan in reply. Mr. Halliday moved—"That the correspondence be received and nothing further be done in the matter." This was seconded by Mr. Brealey. Carried.

A trade enquiry from India was received, and it was resolved, on the motion of Messrs. Martin and Halliday—"That the matter be referred to the Society for consideration." Mr. Robson moved—"That the correspondence be received." Seconded Mr. Halliday and carried.

There being one vacancy in the number nominated for the position of committeemen for the year, ended August 31, 1946, Mr. Bishop moved—"That the nomination of Mr. H. B. Robson be accepted for the position." This was seconded by Mr. Pitt and carried.

General Business.

It was decided, on the motion of Messrs. Pitt and Robson, that the incoming Chairman take over his position immediately after the election of officers.

A sample of scale on citrus was exhibited at the meeting by Mr. Hobbs, and the Chief Horticulturist stated that a parasite had been released in some districts which would assist in controlling pests.

The meeting then closed.

SPRAY RESIDUE ON APPLES.

The Secretary, S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association, Adelaide.

Dear Sir,—

Reports have been received from inspectors of this Board that Apples are on the market heavily coated with spray residue.

I am not aware of the spray being used, but the appearance of the fruit is very unsatisfactory.

Regulations under the Food and Drugs Act control the quantity of arsenic, lead and tin which is permissible on fresh fruit.

It would be appreciated if you could bring this matter under the notice of your members, and endeavour to have the residue removed and so prevent the possibility of any trouble occurring.—Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) S. A. Gale, Secretary.

Adelaide, 6/9/45.

N.S.W. FRUITGROWERS' CENTRAL COUNCIL.**New Organisation in Process of Formation.****Planned Production and Marketing.**

A STATE-WIDE ORGANISATION to be known as the N.S.W. Fruitgrowers' Central Council, was favoured at a representative meeting in Sydney in September, convened by the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Graham).

Delegates attended from the following organisations:—Apple and Pear Growers' Association, Banana Growers' Association, M.I.A. Co-operative Executive, M.I.A. Citrus Growers' Association, Producers' Co-operative Dist. Society, Gosford Co-operative Association, Gosford Bulk Loading Rural Co-operative Society, Northern Suburbs and Cumberland Districts

Fruitgrowers' Association, Kenthurst Fruitgrowers' Association, Wedderburn Fruitgrowers' Rural Co-op. Society, and the Department of Agriculture. The Director of Marketing (Dr. Hynes) presided.

Delegates will report back to their organisations in favour of creating the Central Council.

In opening the Conference, the Minister said that surveys were being made for the expansion of fruit production on a planned basis, as wartime controls had demonstrated the urgent necessity for planned production and marketing.

MAN.

Man is a spiritual being: the proper work of his mind is to interpret the world according to his highest nature; to conquer the material aspects of the world so as to bring them into subjection to the spirit.—Robert Bridges.

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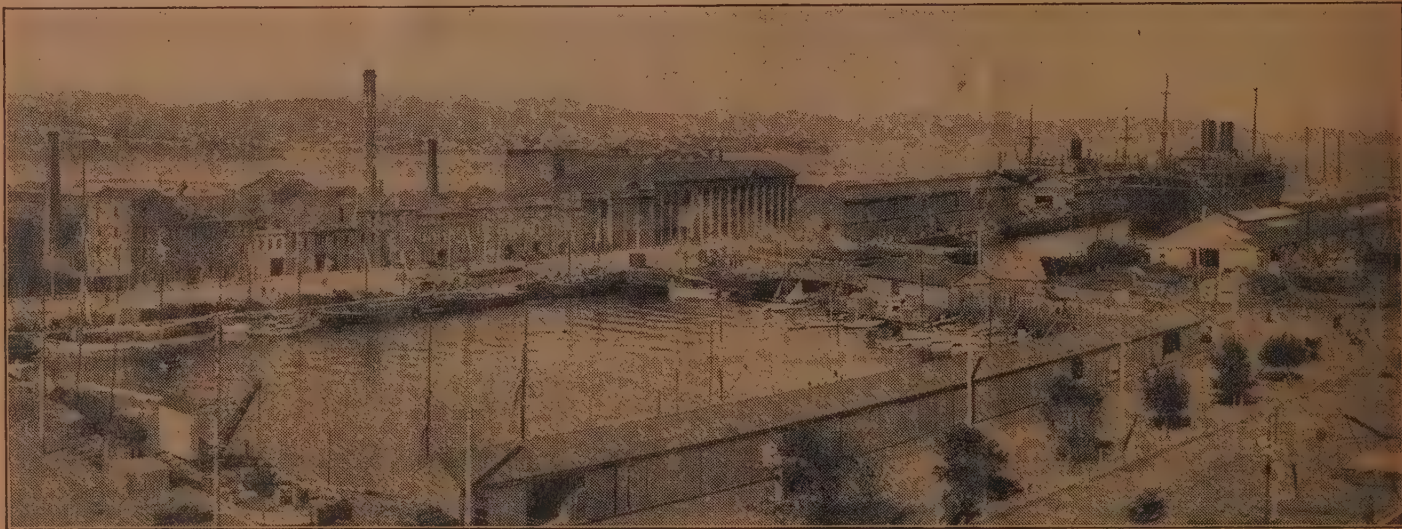
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Queensland News and Notes

OVER-PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLES — CO-OPERATIVE CANNERIES — GOOD PINEAPPLE PROSPECTS AND NEED FOR SELECTED PLANTING MATERIAL — PINEAPPLE GROWER SUES COMMONWEALTH FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION.

North Queensland.

LOCAL production of Tomatoes and most vegetables was adequate for requirements, with heavy over-supplies at times. Particularly heavy quantities of Cabbages and Tomatoes had to be dumped, but in almost every instance the cause was poor quality or grub infestation. Many North Queensland growers are relatively new to vegetable production, and have yet to realise that the days are past when quality and pack had little influence on price, and that in the future their production will be sold on its merits.

A relatively big crop of Carrots and Beetroot remains unharvested on the Atherton Tableland, with very poor prospects of any outlet. A trial consignment of Carrots was railed through to Brisbane, but results were unsatisfactory.

Some excellent quality Charters Towers Valencias were marketed in Brisbane, entailing a rail trip of just over 900 miles. Charters Towers is inland, and citrus is grown under irrigation. It has far better carrying qualities than the coastal citrus of the North.

Interstate loadings of Tomatoes from Bowen and Home Hill district eased, but continued heavy. It was only through the assistance of the Second Hand Fruit Cases Committee and the C.O.D. that the bulk of the main crop was harvested. During the season the Second Hand Fruit Cases Committee made available over 105,000 cases for Bowen, which were railed North some 700 miles from Brisbane. Of this quantity the C.O.D. distributed 103,000.

Central Queensland.

Central Queensland benefited greatly from recent rains, and heavy crops of Tomatoes and Papaws are being marketed, particularly from the Yarrowun district.

There are prospects of a big increase in areas under Papaws and Tomatoes, in both The Caves and Yarrowun districts.

South Queensland.

The timber strike which commenced on August 23 caused some shortages of case timber, but with the free use of second hand cases and the assistance of a number of smaller mills whose staff did not go out on strike, the industry was able to carry on without loss. The strike was the result of an internal difference in the A.W.U. and was not authorised by the Union. The strike was not general, and the strikers ultimately resumed work.

Good spring rains in the main citrus producing districts of Howard and Burrum should assure a good crop for 1946. Flowering was excellent.

Simultaneously with a Brisbane metropolitan Press campaign against the high prices of fruit and vegetables, the C.O.D. has issued a number of vigorous warnings to growers of the necessity for reduced plantings of certain vegetables next season to meet the reduced service demands. Particular emphasis has been paid on the danger of over-pro-

duction of Beetroot and Carrots in their normal seasons.

For months there has been a severe glut of Beetroot throughout the State, and the C.O.D. is urging farmers who were not previously commercial vegetable growers to revert to their normal line of production. There is only a very limited demand in Queensland for bagged Beet and Carrots, most of the city and town housewives preferring to buy these roots with their tops on, apparently on the assumption that the greenness of the top is an assurance of freshness. Production was greatly stimulated to meet service demand, which was for bagged, topped roots.

Co-operative Canneries.

The State Government recently announced that it was prepared to assist in the formation of co-operative canneries wherever such were warranted, and appointed a sub-committee to advise the Secondary Industries Development Commission on the subject. The question was raised in the Queensland State Parliament on September 19, and the following is extracted from "Hansard"—

"Mr. Pie (Windsor) asked the Acting Premier:—

"1. What are the names of the State tropical fruit-canning experts referred to by him on Thursday last, in reply to my question, who are at present investigating the establishment of co-operative tropical fruit canneries in Queensland.

"2. Does he appreciate that until a decision is made which clarifies the State's attitude in relation to co-operative tropical fruit canning, negotiations with interested private overseas experienced tropical fruit canners will have to be suspended? If so, will he supply the information requested by me on Thursday, 13th September."

Hon. E. M. Hanlon (Ithaca, Acting Premier) replied—

"1. Mr. H. S. Hunter, Director of Marketing, Department of Agriculture and Stock; Mr. H. Barnes, Special Administration Officer, Department of Agriculture and Stock; Mr. B. Flewell-Smith, Manager, Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing; Mr. R. Muir, General Secretary, Queensland Cane Growers' Council; Mr. H. W. Herbert, Bureau of Industry, is Secretary of this Committee.

"2. The State is interested in prospects for the development of fruit canning by co-operative methods, but that does not mean that other forms of enterprise will be discouraged, or that any negotiations with overseas canners should necessarily be suspended."

Pineapples.

The excellent thunder rains which have recently fallen throughout the Pineapple districts have given an impetus to plant growth, and the plantations are now looking extremely well. There is an excellent flowering for the summer crop, which it is expected will be considerably heavier than were summer crops in immediate past years.

Planting is now in full swing in all existing production areas, while there is an unprecedented demand for planting material from Central and Northern Queensland and Northern N.S.W. Very high prices are being paid, and it is feared considerable quantities of indifferent plants are being sold.

The problem of inferior planting material is very serious in the Pineapple industry, owing to the widespread prevalence of a hereditary deformity known as "collar-of-slips." This complaint, which can only be eradicated by rigorous plant selection, seriously affects acreage yields. The fruit is also inferior, and, as the name implies, is surrounded by a collar-of-slips. These are either attached to the fruit itself or immediately below on the stem. It is not unusual for 25 to 30 slips, somewhat similar in appearance to the top, to be attached to the fruit. A further disability is the tendency of these plants not to sucker. This means that areas planted with the "collar-of-slip" type frequently fail to throw further crops after the first crop has been harvested.

The Pineapple Sectional Group Committee views the matter so seriously that it has requested the Queensland Department of Agriculture to devise controls. It has suggested that the use and sale of Pineapple planting material should be allowed only under permit. Experience in other parts of the world has shown that the elimination of these types has been responsible for increased yields of up to seven tons of

fruit per acre per annum. This obviously is reflected in a corresponding reduction in the cost of production per ton. This is of some importance in view of the probability that cost will be the determining factor in the development of markets for fresh and canned Pineapples.

Pineapple Grower Sues Commonwealth.

Of interest to fruitgrowers, particularly those whose fruit was acquired by the Commonwealth Government under National Security Regulations, is the action against the Commonwealth by Mr. McClintock, a Pineapple grower of Woombye, Queensland, who is claiming compensation for Pineapples diverted to canneries under the Pineapple Control Orders. These orders required growers to deliver specified portions of their harvest during specified periods. Mr. McClintock is claiming damages on the grounds that the prices paid for his fruit were not on just terms in accordance with the Australian Constitution. It is expected that the case will come before the Supreme Court of Queensland on October 10.

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It has not been possible during the war period for us to handle Australian Apples and Pears as in previous years.

Now that the war is over, we hope, when shipping space is available, to again offer our organization to the Australian Fruitgrower.

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VICTORIA: Fruit Packers Associated Pty. Ltd., 395 Collins Street, Melbourne, C.1.

SOUTHERN TASMANIA: W. H. Ikin & Son, Dunn Street, Hobart.

NORTHERN TASMANIA: Bell & Gerrard, 200 Cimitiere Street, Launceston.

NEW SOUTH WALES: H. Dakin, Goldsbrough House, Macquarie Place, Sydney.



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INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS

N.Z. FRUITGROWERS' FEDERATION.

Growers Favour Controlled Marketing for Local Sales and Export.

IMPORTANT MATTERS affecting the fruit industry of New Zealand were discussed at the recent three-day conference of the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation. Mr. T. C. Brash presided.

In opening the conference the Minister for Agriculture and Marketing (Mr. Roberts) said that pre-war about 50 per cent. of the N.Z. Apple crop was exported, and on the wartime cessation of exports it looked as if ruin faced the growers. However, a plan had been devised to assist the industry, and though costly to the Government, he thought the money had been well spent. He felt that growers would agree that organised marketing of pip fruit should continue and that one body should control both export and internal distribution of Apples and Pears. The Government could assist by some form of marketing partnership.

Resolutions were carried affirming the absolute need for some form of controlled marketing of pip fruit, the controlling authority being a Board with full statutory powers on which producer representation is predominant.

:: :: ::

During the conference there was criticism of the N.Z. Marketing Council—composed of growers' representatives and Government officers: it was felt that this Council should have more power in the control of marketing, and a resolution was accordingly

carried. Mr. W. Benzie, of the Internal Marketing Division said that although the Council, as now set up was a partnership he could not advocate legislative changes to give the Council mandatory powers. Ministerial policy was affected.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the policy of direct sales by growers to the public. Some delegates affirmed that the efforts of the Marketing Council were being undermined by the increasing direct-sale trade. A resolution was finally carried thus:—

That this conference supports the action of the grower representatives on the Fruit Marketing Council in their efforts to market a larger quantity of fruit direct to retailers, and urged them to continue their efforts to secure further market economies.

Federation's Nursery.

Delegates expressed appreciation of the progress at the Federation's Fruit Tree Nursery at Levin.

EMPEROR MANDARIN TREES.

Prohibited From Entering Queensland from N.S.W. and Victoria Unless Certified Fungus Free.

The introduction into Queensland of Emperor Mandarin trees or buds from Victoria and N.S.W. has been prohibited by proclamation under the Diseases in Plants Acts, unless accompanied by certificates signed by the grower and an inspector to the effect that the trees or buds are free from Brown Spot of Mandarin.

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Copper Fungicidal Spray.

*** PHYOMONE**
Prevents pre-harvest drop.

*** SHIRLAN AG**
Prevents Mould and Mildew.

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PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

Victorian Orchardists' and Fruit Cool Stores' Association

Local and Export Problems — Interstate Conference Advocated — Wages Log. —

FRUIT TREE STANDARDS, proposed Interstate Conference of Fruitgrowers' Arbitration Court procedure and other matters were discussed at the quarterly meeting of the Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores Association at Melbourne on September 4, Mr. D. W. Lechte presiding over a large and representative attendance.

Rates for Cool Storage: The secretary (Mr. W. A. Stewart) reported that, after delay, the Prices Commissioner had agreed to the Association's request for an increase in rates for fruit cool storage. The rates were: 1d. per case per week with a minimum of 6d. and a maximum charge of 1/9 per case for a complete season.

While expressing appreciation, Mr. J. G. Aird pointed out there was no definition of a complete season. Most stores would close down in October this year and it might be possible that space had been let to a non-shareholder who desired to keep his fruit in store for another two months and the store would be compelled to remain open at considerable cost.

Victorian Fruitgrowers' Council: Mr. J. H. Lang said the Vic. Fruitgrowers' Council, after being formed was disbanded, but had been reformed. The reason for the disbanding was the action of the delegates of the Fruitgrowers' and Primary Producers' Defence League in withdrawing because of the League's constitution and their objection to the zoning and membership clauses. The Council had been re-established on a loose basis, sufficient to hold the members together.

Mr. J. J. Tully expressed satisfaction that the Council had been reformed, but regretted that the Northern Vic. Fruitgrowers' Association was not prepared to join.

Grade Standards for Fruit Trees: Mr. Geo. Brunning, Somerville, said the proposed Bill for fixing grade standards for fruit trees and the licensing of nurserymen would cause considerable difficulty to nurserymen and would not give the growers much, if any, protection. The Peninsula Orchardists' Central Association had carried a resolution opposing the Bill.

Mr. F. M. Read, Dept. of Agric., said the proposed legislation was being introduced at the request of all the States as expressed at a meeting of the Agricultural Council and that Victoria had been asked to draft the legislation. Its object was to fix standards of nursery trees for sale. After the last war a great many returned men had purchased trees which were not what they purported to be and after spending some years cultivating them the trees were found to be useless. It was desired to prevent a repetition of this and also to protect other growers who may be planting new orchards. As far as he knew, the Bill had not yet been considered by the other States. Citrus growers were supporting the Bill vigorously and the Northern Growers had also written in support. The Bill stated quite openly what was required and there were no clauses in it which contained any difficult or hidden provisions. There were three parties actually to it: (1) The grow-

ers, (2) The nurserymen, and the third group who would be affected were officers of the Department of Agriculture, who were expected to administer the regulations. Officers were not prepared to take on this job without adequate safeguards. Nurserymen would be required to keep careful records in a uniform way of their varieties, stocks, types of buds, etc., and groups in the nurseries would have to be carefully labelled. This would naturally mean increased work for the nurserymen and growers must be expected to pay a little more for their trees. Without careful recording and labelling it would not be possible to trace any errors or misstatements that were made with trees sold. The Department would be prepared to supply buds from selected trees and would stand behind the buds which they supplied, and would co-operate in every way in order to give the nurserymen as little trouble as possible. The Bill would provide that anything could be sold as long as there was no deception and the purchaser was clearly advised as to the type of tree and grade he was purchasing.

Continuing, Mr. Read pointed out that growers in certain areas had a preference for certain types of trees and of varying heights, and it would be possible under the legislation, for them to purchase trees of the grade and type they desired.

Questions were then put to Mr. Read, among them being that of compensation if it were later found that the purchaser did not obtain the

trees that he had assumed he was getting and as shown by the label.

Mr. Read said that the purchaser would have his rights at Common Law as at present. He could take action against the nurseryman for damages. In reply to a further question, Mr. Read advised that the nurseryman would be required to label each tree sold either individually or in bundles of not more than 25 trees.

Mr. Jouning said that he felt that the Department was dealing with the wrong end of the stock. No mention was made in the Bill of the root and that was the vital part of the tree. A great deal of research could take place before the most suitable stocks were discovered.

Mr. Brunning said that nurserymen had been experimenting for years with various types of stocks and had not yet been able to meet requirements. They strongly urged the Department to conduct experiments in an effort to find a stock that will be suitable for Victorian conditions.

In reply, Mr. Read said that research was a vital matter and cost money. The Department had carried out as much research as it had been able to do with the money at its disposal. He acknowledged the necessity for continued research. Referring to the Bill, Mr. Read said that it will cover all types of fruit trees and will say that the buyer shall be told what stock has been used.

Mr. W. P. Mair then moved: "That this Association registers its strong opposition to the enactment of the proposed Fruit Tree Standards Bill as at present constituted."

Mr. Mair said that it was rather unfortunate that copies of the Bill should have been released from another State while Victorians were unable to obtain copies. There should be uniformity in policy, apparently the Bill did not give the purchas-

er any additional protection than he had at present.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jarman and carried.

Vote of thanks to Mr. Read was carried.

Research into Fruit Tree Stocks: Mr. H. J. Willoughby moved: "That the Department of Agriculture conduct immediate vigorous research into fruit tree stocks with the object of developing stocks suitable for Victorian soils and conditions."

Mr. Willoughby said that the Government should be urged to speed up the establishment of the proposed experimental research station, and that it should be requested to carry out experiments, particularly with the fruit tree stocks, as quickly as possible.

In seconding, Mr. H. E. P. Moore, who said that for many years growers had been pressing for research in this matter. He hoped that something definite would shortly be done. Motion carried.

Report on Arbitration Case: The Secretary (Mr. W. A. Stewart) reported that the application for the granting of a Rural Workers' Award for all employees in rural industries not at present working under an award had been before the Court. Adjourned until October 23. Many interests were concerned in the application including wheat growers, graziers, poultrymen as well as fruit growers and some other minor industries. There was some doubt as to the validity of the application in view of the fact that it had been made under a National Security Regulation and as the war had ceased it was possible that the application was invalid. The Judge himself apparently had some doubt of its legality. However, it appeared that there would be considerable delay in hearing the claims of

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the various sections in opposition to the application and it was probable that it would have to be dealt with by the Court in other capital cities. In the meantime the Victorian Employers' Federation, who were appearing for the Association, had requested that a committee be appointed to confer with it and that witnesses also be arranged to appear at the Court when necessary. The principal provisions of the Log were that the basic wage would be £4/16/- plus a margin of from 6/- per week for pickers up to an additional £2 per week for foremen. Female employees to receive the same wages as males, hours 44 per week with 14 days' leave on full pay as well as statutory holidays. In connection with the appointment of a committee and of witnesses it was decided on the motion of Mr. F. W. Jarman and Mr. A. J. Upton that the matter be left in the hands of the executive. Report received.

Request for Conference of Apple and Pear Growers: Mr. W. P. Mair reported that the Association had requested the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture to call a conference of Australian Apple and Pear Growers and departmental experts to discuss the problems facing the industry,

and that the Minister had replied stating that the request was receiving consideration. The N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association had also urged the calling of a conference. In view of the fact that it was hoped shortly to resume export of fruit, a discussion on such matters as the possible fixing of quotas for imports by the various overseas governments, the difficulties of shipping, and efforts to find new markets, were all matters upon which the Government's help and advice were necessary. The Minister had been urged to call the meeting as soon as possible. The report was received on the motion of Mr. H. M. McLean, seconded Mr. F. W. Jarman.

VICTORIAN FRUITGROWERS' COUNCIL.

AT a meeting of the recently formed Victorian Fruitgrowers' Council on September 6, delegates were present from the Orchardists' and Fruit Cool Stores' Association, Peninsula Orchardists' Central Association, Fruit Growers' Defence League, Gippsland Fruit Marketing Association, Southern Fruitgrowers' Association, Harcourt Fruitgrowers' Progress Association, the Harcourt Orchardists Pty. Ltd, and the Eastern

Metropolitan Fruitgrowers' Association. Mr. D. W. Lechte presided.

The need for an Interstate Conference to discuss post-war problems was stressed.

Mr. G. W. Brown said that as a preliminary to the proposed conference growers should decide on a common policy, and as to what requests they were going to make to the Federal Minister for Commerce and Agriculture. There were divergent views in several of the States owing to varying problems of local and export markets. He proposed that each member of the Council should prepare a statement of his views and that these be co-ordinated and discussed before going forward to any Interstate Conference. Other speakers supported Mr. Brown's proposal and it was decided to act accordingly.

Mr. H. J. Noonan said this State was losing the services of its trained Entomologists and Plant Pathologists because of better salaries and conditions in other States and in commercial undertakings. It was decided to approach the State Government with a request that the status and salaries of such officers be raised, as the present losses in scientific personnel were serious.

HARCOURT DISTRICT.

Prospects Good for Apples: Water Storage Problems.

The Harcourt district passed through an anxious period with low rainfall and very little irrigation during the past season. Storages of water in the Coliban, Malmesbury and Lauriston reservoirs totalled 21,000 acre feet out of 58,000 acre feet capacity. Harcourt reservoir supply was very limited and three waterings had to be pumped. There was a reserve of 12,000 acre feet in the Coliban area for Castlemaine and Bendigo domestic supply, and, with no restrictions, water was poured over lawns and gardens while farmers had to take their stock miles to get water.

A move is on foot for authority to build a bank across the Loddon River at Glenluce to hold 21,000 acre feet to supplement the Coliban supply. In addition the Government already has a scheme in hand (the Cairn Curran scheme) to build a reservoir lower down the Loddon to store 120,000 acre feet: this will link up with the channel in the northern parts of the State.

Harcourt growers were limited to three waterings: normally they would use four times that quantity. Due to the mild summer they were able to harvest their usual quality of fruit and like other districts found the interstate markets very profitable.

The Fruitgrowers' Associations were able to cope with the heavy packing besides keeping up supplies of cases and heavy orders for the Defence Forces with their sawmills working two shifts.

The cool store has been full to capacity and is now practically empty and is taking in 25,000 bags of Tasmanian Potatoes to be dried and canned to go abroad.

Seasonable work has now commenced spraying, is already in full swing to combat black spot and a good number of growers have replaced horses with tractors. A great many new implements have come to the district.

The fruit crop promises to be heavy with the exception of Pears.

Water storages are rising and prospects for irrigation are a great deal brighter than this time last year.

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Hastings (14/9/45).

The growers in the Hastings district have made valiant efforts to get ahead with seasonal operations, and in spite of serious labour shortages, are in many cases almost up to date with their pruning. It has only been possible to do the more essential work, and usual improvements, long overdue, have had to be indefinitely postponed. Some light crops of fruit have been experienced, but on the whole, the coming crop shows great promise, and given good weather and the wherewithal to carry out adequately the spray programme, there should be a good harvest.

Plums are flowering well, Apple buds are swelling, and Pears are showing generally for a light crop.

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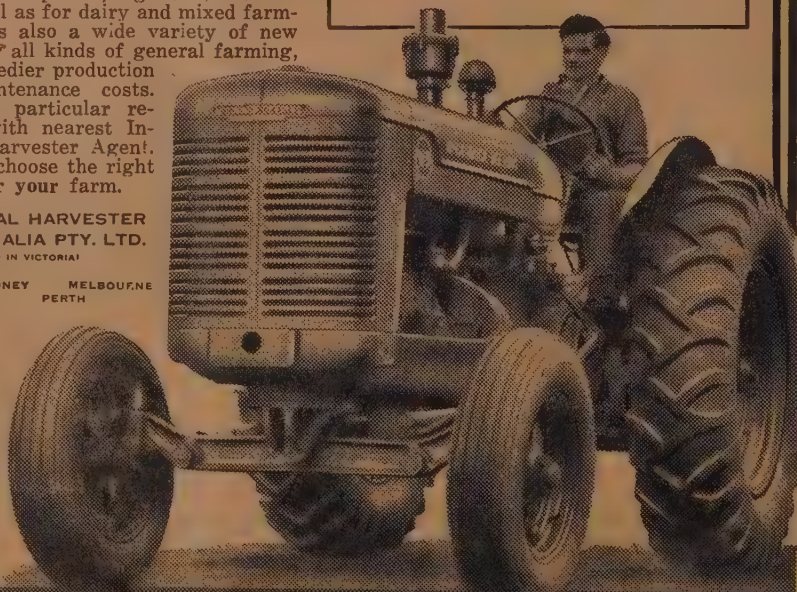
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Fruitgrowing at Shepparton

CROPS REPORTS — SEASONABLE ORCHARD WORK.

Shepparton (17/9/45).

Crop Prospects.

It is too early to make an estimate for the forthcoming year. Blossoming is as follows:

Apricots: A good show of blossom generally, but older varieties (Moorpark, Mansfield), patchy and inclined to drop their flowers, but indications are for a heavy setting on Trevatt, Shipley, Tilton.

Peaches: A good show of blossom on all canning varieties with a few exceptions where trees bore heavy crops last year and did not receive sufficient water.

Plums promising well.

Pears: Packham seems to be the only variety showing a consistently heavy blossoming. Jos. and W. Nelis very light, while W.B.C.'s is extremely patchy.

D.D.T.

Great expectations are held out for the new insecticide for the control of codling moth and Peach moth. Losses from these pests have reached alarming proportions, up to 40 per cent. and 50 per cent. being common, while a conservative estimate would average 25 per cent., both for codling and Peach moth.

However, according to official advice, much experimental work is required before this spray could be recommended for general commercial use.

Ploughing will commence almost immediately owing to most ground, especially the heavier clay soils (being devoid of humus because of the failure of cover crops during the past two or three years) setting very hard. Once this type of ground dries out it is almost impossible to work and therefore will have to be ploughed before the top two or three inches dry out.

Pruning: As was the case during the past few years, growers have experienced great difficulty owing to manpower shortage to get through, and then only by starting with the leaves on the trees and finishing with them in full blossom.

Fodder Position.

Growers are having a very anxious time, especially those who depend on horse teams for cultivation. It is hoped that with a bountiful harvest in sight, farmers who have a stock of hay (and there are many) will now feel inclined to part with it and tide things over the critical period to the new cut.

It is generally felt that if the Price Fixing Commission had taken the advice of the more practical minded, much loss of stock and anxiety to producers could have been avoided.

Spraying.

All winter sprays were applied, such as ovicidal sprays for Peach aphids, oil and lime sulphur on Pears and Plums for mite and red spider. The next will be the calyx spray on Pears.

Because of olive scale on Apricots many growers had to use an oil spray, combination sprays of Bordeaux and the pale oils were also used effectively.

A great deal of delay was caused in spraying this year because of wet conditions, many tractor driven outfits had difficulty, especially tractors on rubbers.

Fertilizers.

Owing to war conditions the only nitrogenous fertilizer available for orchardists has been two pounds of nitrate of soda per tree.

Canning varieties in the Goulburn Valley seem to respond only to nitrogen, sulphate of ammonia being the most efficacious, amounts up to 5 lb. per tree being given, consequently, trees, especially the older Peach trees are showing a marked decline, and it is feared unless greater quantities are made available the profitable life span of such trees will be considerably shortened.

Growers are pleased to see that 1 cwt. per acre of sulphate of ammonia has been released for canning varieties, this is a step in the right direction, but disappointing when it is considered that the N.S.W. growers have been granted 2 cwt. per acre.

Lack of nitrogen has been accentuated by the fact that leguminous crops for the past few years have been a failure.

Shepparton (29/9/45).

Light frosts were recorded during the past week, no heavy damage appears to have been done to the Apricot crop, as the cots at this stage were still in most cases protected by the blossom sheath, nevertheless, growers report a drop in varieties such as Moorpark, Mansfield, and Hemskirk, which may be due in part to the frost.

Hail was also experienced on several properties, light damage being claimed, with one or two exceptions claiming up to 40 per cent.

The greatest damage by frost being done to Tomatoes planted early, these plants are now beginning to wilt as a result. It is hoped by growers that the damage being light, most of the plants will recover.

NEW APPLE BOX.

A new type of Apple package has been evolved in U.S.A. This is really a carton of the same size as the standard bush. case, with a series of papier-mâché trays having shallow protective cups in which the Apples are placed. The container reaches the packing house from the factory as a flat outer carton, a set of trays, four corner posts and a top pad. These, when assembled are stated to form a sturdy container that completely protects the fruit from bruising, each individual fruit being cushioned: the cost is comparable to the wooden case. No wrapping paper is required: the fruit trays are waterproofed and treated with oil to prevent scald and spread of decay: the construction of the container is such that it permits more rapid cooling of fruit when placed in cool storage.

The makers state that being of waterproof construction, the outer cartons do not become limp or saggy with the humidity of cold storage air or the influx of moisture from other sources.

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From the information so far available, no indication is at hand regarding the weight of fruit capable of being held in this container.

History and Development of Shepparton

SAGA OF HARDSHIP, INDUSTRY AND TRIUMPHANT CO-OPERATION.

(By Our Special Representative.)

IN 1912 Shepparton was opened up to irrigation and the district of Shepparton East, Orrvale, Lemnos and Grahamvale, was subdivided into 20 to 24 acre blocks. Previously cultivated by a few wheat farmers it was hoped that the district would henceforth provide a livelihood for several hundred families, and present a picture of thriving dairy farms, and intensely cultivated small holdings, after the style of Holland. The size of the blocks, however, was found to be altogether inadequate; nor were the lucerne crops particularly successful, and pasture improvement with mixed grasses in this country was very much of the future.

With the drought of 1914, many of the new settlers succumbed to the brief but unequal battle. As is often remarked in the district, though hard on the unfortunate this was doubly beneficial to the sturdy few; having gained survival by their "stick-at-it-ness," they had the opportunity to increase their holdings to the present average of 34 to 40 acres, and in an odd case even to 120 acres, and at the same time secure an expanded share of the available markets.

Switch Over to Fruit.

The prosperity of the orchardists on the other side of the Goulburn having been observed, the increased holdings were planted in Apricots, Peaches and Pears, and Plums, Apples and Citrus, with the Melbourne and Sydney markets in view, and jobs were obtained in Shepparton and other towns until the trees

came into bearing. By 1917 this movement was in full swing, and shortly it was augmented by an influx of returned soldiers and immigrants of British stock. In later times a Jewish community settled here, and, recently, many Albanians, both of which races are highly esteemed in the district for their industry.

Early Shepparton orchardists were urged on and advised by a few ardent horticulturists in their midst, notably Mr. C. J. Nash, who had planted his Shepparton East block about 1913. Prominent among these pioneers were Mrs. McDonald, whose son is the district's present State member, and Messrs. T. C. James, Spivey, Partis, Dobson, MacFadyen, Ben Roach, Akers, E. W. and O. C. Beckham and J. J. Young.

Early Co-operative Spirit.

The bulk of the Orchards came into bearing from 1920 onwards, but unfortunately, the markets were glutted and hard times were still ahead. Through all their vicissitudes, the indomitable few preserved their faith in the vision splendid of their eventual prosperity, which to the less stout-hearted, including politicians and bankers, seemed but a figment of the imagination. Then, as to-day, a wonderful spirit of co-operation was alive in the district. To-day one sees working bees of the block holders and their men planting poplars along the roads which divide their blocks, or on a wood cutting picnic for the hospital; then common necessity drew the growers together.



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HISTORY OF SHEPPARTON—(Continued).

Cannery Founded.

In 1917 they had formed a co-operative fruit and vegetable canning company, which had been registered as the Shepparton Fruit Preserving Co. Ltd., with an authorised capital of £24,000. Operations were started in 1918, but the requirements of the canned fruit markets had to be learnt and, in addition, they were found to be dominated, both locally and overseas, by older and well established concerns. But the growers were fortunate in their leaders, capable men of action with vision and plans.

The history of the Shepparton Fruit Preserving Co. Ltd. shows that, though it was established in a very modest form in 1918, and for many years in its fight for existence there were many disappointments and serious setbacks, the results of sound management, careful planning and willing co-operation between grower and management finally asserted themselves, and by 1925 "S.P.C." products were being recognised everywhere as "quality" products, the company had stabilised its financial position, and the scope of its activities began to expand. The faith of the early growers was being at last vindicated and perseverance rewarded.

Change Over to Canning Varieties.

As their co-operative cannery prospered the Shepparton growers began to replant their orchards with canning varieties of Apricots, Peaches and Pears, and to a limited extent with late Pears for export. Trevatt Apricots, Pullar's Cling and Golden Queen Peaches and William's, Packham's and Josephine Pears. Henceforward, comparatively little fresh fruit was marketed, the cannery, under the able direction of Mr. A. W. Fairley, one of Australia's most able executives, solved their marketing problems, and their Association was affiliated with the seven other Fruit-growers' Associations throughout the Goulburn Valley, so that their interests in the wide sphere of national policy were watched, they, the growers, at last were free to give their attention undivided to the business of production.

Pests.

These days they still have man-power worries and a certain amount of codling moth and Oriental Peach moth; but they do not growl, they have survived worse than these by far.

Beta Naphthaline chemical bands have been very extensively used in this district, but it has been found that the grub prefers the old hessian band!

Unless the hessian is inspected within every ten days it of course only provides an ideal harbour, consequently it puts a very unwelcome strain on manpower. This season more particular attention is to be paid to the two calyx sprays with white oil and arsenate of lead.

Oriental Peach moth has caused havoc in past seasons though, possibly owing to the dry conditions, in the last two it has not been so severe. Great hopes are held that D.D.T. will be a suitable exterminant.

"Each nation should be free to decide for itself the forms and details of its governmental organisation—so long as it conducts affairs in such a way as not to menace the peace and security of other nations."—Cordell Hull.

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C. J. Nash, a Pioneer Shepparton Orchardist.

Interviewed by Our Special Representative.

MR. C. J. NASH, of Shepparton East, has been a lifelong horticulturist, with an indomitable faith in the future of the industry. In 1916, at a meeting of fruit growers in Shepparton, the Premier, the late Sir Alexander Peacock, chuckled at Mr. Nash's prediction that the production of Shepparton alone would one day exceed half a million cases. Sir Alexander remarked that they had not met to discuss flights into the realm of fancy!

Mildura Experience.

In 1874, at the age of four years, Mr. Nash arrived in Australia with his parents, who selected a property at Violet Town, in the Kelly Country. He served his apprenticeship, so to speak, to horticulture, in the Mildura district, where he spent ten years from 1892 to 1902, gaining much experience there of the methods employed by the Chaffey Bros., and from clearing and planting his own block. He was fortunate, in the financial chaos which eventually overtook Mildura, to realise approximately the sum originally spent on his property, and transferred to the Dookie district, where he remained for 12 years until 1914. There Raisins, Sultan's and Currants were mainly concentrated upon, some 25 tons being dried annually. Even nowadays, Mr. Nash makes a hobby of drying fruits—last year £70 was realised on dried Pears.

Wide Range of Plantings.

In 1913 to 1914, while still carrying on Dookie, Mr. Nash planted his present Shepparton East holding. Elberta Peaches were favoured for drying, though labour cost involved tended to be excessive. The main Peach plantings were made with Pullar's Cling, the incomparable canning variety from the growers' point of view.

Peaches.

Although Golden Queen is preferred by the canneries on account of its clear yellow centre, free from red tinge, it is always difficult to get an even crop up to size, with the result that, though often a very heavy bearer, two-thirds of the crop may have to be rejected for canning. However, plantings were also made of these; likewise of Phillip's Cling, which proved to be liable to an off season.

The Peaches remained in full bearing for fifteen years, though some Elbertas were in profitable production in their 31st year. It was observed that the Peaches on the higher land remained in production longest.

Apples.

Although not an Apple district, Delicious and Granny Smith were planted and also a number of Nicajack sports—having the flavour of the Delicious and the colour of the Nicajack—dark and brilliant, glaring red.

Tendency to Switch Over to Pears.

The Goulburn Valley is unsurpassed for Pears, and large plantings of

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA—

WIGMORES LTD., 613 Wellington Street, Perth.

PIONEER SHEPPARTON ORCHARDIST—(Continued).

Williams, Packhams and Josephines Anyway finish by the last week in were made. Because second plantings of Peaches on the same site do not yield so well, there is a tendency for Valley growers on their present orchards to gradually switch over to Pears entirely and seek virgin blocks for Peach planting—even going as far afield as Cobram. Mr. Nash has examined that country and considers it ideal for Peaches. However, a property that has a well-arranged sequence from Apricots through Peaches to Pears will find itself at an advantage when it comes to holding a team of pickers.

Plums for Sydney.

Ballena (the Whale) Plums were also planted. Picked green, they carry long distances and ripen well—Sydney buyers always competing keenly for Mr. Nash's consignments, which have an established reputation and bring up to and over £1 per case. Ballena was originated by Burbank, who worked under a Carnegie Grant in America and evolved several varieties of Japanese Plums.

Apricots.

Plantings of Trevatt Apricots were, of course, also made. This pre-eminent Shipley Apricot first came under Mr. Nash's notice back in 1895, when he was an agent for C. J. Goodman's Nurseries. They soon replaced Moorpark, which were inclined to ripen on one side.

Citrus.

Citrus fruits were included in the original plantings and, although they are not very long-lived in this district, Oranges, Lemons and Grapefruit are still flourishing on the property and bearing fruit of grand quality and texture. Olives were planted as wind breaks.

Cultivation.

Mr. Nash, to use his own phrase, strongly believes in mixing brains with brawn, and horticulture has provided him with a lifetime's work, study and recreation. Every tree on the property is to him a live and friendly thing, whose history and lineage he knows intimately, and which he deems worthy of the tenderest care and cultivation. In the first instance the greatest care was taken to select the ideal soil, and Mr. Nash spent a week with a shovel thoroughly examining the locality; seeking a good sandy loam with a red sub-soil 18 in. deep. Having found the soil, he has taken fine care to maintain it in good heart. Legumes for ploughing in are sown annually. Pea mite being apt to play havoc with Peas, Tick Beans are favoured, although the seed is more expensive. They make a grand leafy crop over 5 ft. high. They are let grow as late as mid-October, though care is taken to plough them in while still succulent.

Lime is applied every five or seven years as a corrective of acidity in the soil, over a ton to the acre being used. Lime itself is cheap enough, though the labour costs of applying it have to be watched.

Sub-soiling.

Mr. Nash believes in ploughing deeply and sub-soiling, if possible, 1 ft. deep. The tractor is used to haul two single-furrow ploughs. In the Autumn he makes a deep centre furrow and in the Spring ploughs away from the trees. He says, "Plough with the last rain for preference!"

October.

Fertilizers.

Potash manures are applied in the Autumn, and nitrates in the Spring. Sulphate is withheld until it is seen how the crop is growing—if a tree is not heavily set, Mr. Nash points out, sulphate will only encourage rank growth. Light, repeated applications are advocated.

Irrigating.

The same policy of a little and often is followed when irrigating. One acre being the district flat allowance a slight excess is used, depending, of course, entirely on the season. Each row is bayed, and four or five irrigations are made; the idea being to run the water through quickly. Cultivation is maintained with the tractor while there is room.

Mr. Nash has kept the weather gauge for the district for the past 20 years and is a keen student of weather cycles. This year 910 pts. had been recorded to August 31—the total for 1944 being only 987 pts. After the enforced rest the land should yield bumper crops for the next two years; after the 1902 drought followed the fat years of 1903 and 1904; likewise the 1914 drought preceded the plenty of 1915 and 1916.

Pest Control.

Red oil or lime sulphur is applied during the dormant period; the oil being a good bark conditioner. Arsenate of lead is used early when about three parts of the petals are down. Codling moth has become a severe problem in the district through the years. Beta Naphthalene chemical bands have been used with varying success, hessian bands are more effective providing there is manpower available to inspect them. White oil and arsenate of lead are the Summer sprays, and they are the practical way of dealing with Codling moth, but they must be applied thoroughly.

Better Land Left.

Mr. Nash had the wisdom, uncommon amongst Australian primary producers, to plant an ornamental shelter around his house of Lamberianas, Cotton Palms and Robusta Pines which, in the course of the years, have grown into a veritable bower.

Mr. Nash hailed the advent of the Shepparton Co-operative Cannery as the "dawning of the morning," and insists that no new fruit-growing district can hope to succeed without a co-operative cannery. He maintains there are still the same opportunities open to-day as in his youth, and his advice to would-be orchardists is to follow the example of the successful growers, taking no blind steps, and climbing the ladder slowly. Along the Murray Valley there are patches left that are, if anything, better than the Goulburn's best. "With sufficient water storages," in Mead's words, "this is the best land on earth." Finally, in doubt, seek the advice of the Department of Agriculture's experts.

YOUNG FARMERS' FIELD DAY.

There was a good attendance at the annual field day of the North Mooroopna Young Farmers' Club. Members staged a good display of sheep, poultry and school work.

Market Grower

POTATO GROWING COMPETITION

Interesting Contest at Lobethal, South Australia.

FOR MANY YEARS PAST a Potato-growing competition has been conducted by the Lobethal Branch of the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia.

The general result has been the improvement of cultural practices. The following is a resumé of the 1944-45 competition which was judged by Mr. E. Leishman, Manager Experiment Orchard, Blackwood.

A record number of entries was received. There was an absence of virus diseases, indicating that competitors were attending to seed selection. There was evidence of green aphid in most plots, but in only one plot was there sufficient number to cause odd leaves to curl. The tubers were exceptionally free from common scab.

The Entries.

(Entry No. 2.)

The winning crop was grown by J. P. Kerber, Woodside (95½ pts.), yielded 19 tons 15 cwt. 41 lb. per acre, of which 93.4 was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 5.07 per cent. less than 3 ozs. in weight and 1.53 per cent. Potato moth. Selected Carman seed was used, dipped prior to planting. The ground (previously pasture), was well prepared before planting by machine on December 11, 1944. Cut seed was used (2-3 ozs. in weight), and 8 cwt. of super. per acre.

(Entry No. 1.)

A. W. Peach, Lobethal, was second (89 pts.), yield 15 tons 19 cwt. 103 lb. per acre, of which 92.0 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 6.40 per cent. less than 3 ozs. in weight and 1.60 Potato moth and scab. The ground was well prepared and planted by machine in December, using undipped selected cut seed (2-3 ozs.), variety Carman: fertilizer 8 cwt. 3-1 mixture per acre.

(Entry No. 1.)

C. H. Kerber, Woodside, third (88½ pts.). Yield, 14 tons 18 cwt. 17 lb. per acre, of which 93.4 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 5.88 per cent. undersized and only 0.67 per cent. Potato moth. The ground was well prepared; planted by machine on December 15, using undipped selected Carman seed (round) approx. 3 ozs. in weight, 8 cwt. super per acre used.

J. P. Kerber (entry No. 1), the only entry of Katahdin variety in the competition and yielded extremely well: 19 tons 13 cwt. 64 lb. per acre, of which 86.53 per cent. was No. 1 grade. The low percentage of No. 1 grade was due to 9.47 per cent. of tubers affected with "Potato Moth." Green aphid was in evidence, causing leaves to curl. (88 pts. allotted.)

B. A. Mahlo, Lobethal (86 pts.): Yield, 13 tons 14 cwt. 1 lb. per acre, of which 92.3 per cent. was No. 1 Grade, the remainder being 6.74 per cent. undersized and 0.96 per cent. Potato Moth: grown from selected undipped cut Carman seed.

J. H. Schubert, Lobethal: another good crop, yielding 15 tons 9 cwt. 84 lb., and would have challenged the highest yield only for the presence of a fair amount of rot at digging;

89.36 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 6.54 per cent. undersized and 4.11 per cent. Potato Moth and scab. Grown from selected, dipped cut Carman seed; 10 cwt. super. and sulphate ammonia were the fertilizers used. (86 pts.)

C. Sickerdick, Lobethal (85 pts.): yield 13 tons 15 cwt. 73 lb. per acre, of which 94.05 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 2.83 per cent. undersized and 3.12 per cent. Potato Moth. Tubers clean and of good type. Grown from selected, undipped cut Carman seed; 8 cwt. super. per acre used.

S. R. Buckley, Charleston (entry No. 1) (84 pts.): yield, 12 tons 1 cwt. 40 lb. per acre, of which 94.1 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 4.97 per cent. undersized and 0.93 per cent. Potato Moth. Tubers clean, of good type and free from diseases. Grown from approved, dipped, cut Carman seed.

A. W. Peach, Lobethal (No. 2 entry) (83 pts.): yield (not as heavy as No. 1) 13 tons 18 cwt. 109 lb. per acre, of which 85.62 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 12.85 per cent. undersized and rejects and 1.53 per cent. Potato Moth and scab. Odd rotten tubers noted. Grown from selected undipped cut Carman seed.

S. R. Buckley Charleston (No. 2 entry) (82 pts.): yield slightly better than the No. 1 entry, 12 tons 2 cwt. 12 lb. per acre, but the percentage of No. 1 grade was lower; viz. 91.0 per cent. No. 1 grade, the remainder being 7.47 per cent. undersized and rejects, and 1.23 per cent.

G. H. Kerber, Woodside (No. 2 entry) (82 pts.): yield, 11 ton 17 cwt. 17 lb. per acre, of which 92.87 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 5.35 per cent. undersized and 1.78 per cent. Potato Moth. Approved Carman seed used, dipped and cut to approx. 3 ozs. in weight. Plot received same treatment as entry No. 1.

B. Klau, Charleston (80 pts.): yield, 10 tons 6 cwt. 14 lb. per acre, of which 94.1 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 5.21 per cent. undersized and rejects, and 0.65 per cent. Potato Moth. A fair amount of rotten tubers considerably reduced the yield. The Carman seed was not selected, but was dipped and cut before planting.

L. B. Pfeiffer (No. 1 entry) (79 pts.): yield, 11 tons 12 cwt. 106 lb., of which 89.98 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 7.24 per cent. undersized and rejects, and 2.78 per cent. Potato Moth. The germination of this crop was slightly irregular. The Carman seed was not selected or dipped; cut seed was used.

W. Peacock, Woodside (79½ pts.): yield, 11 tons, 13 cwt. 71 lb. per acre, of which 89.7 per cent. was No. 1 grade, the remainder being 9.64 undersized and rejects, and 0.59 Potato Moth. The Carman seed was selected, but not dipped prior to planting.

W. D. Erdmann's two entries yielded 12 tons 10 cwt. 23 lb. and 11:16:8, being allotted 78 and 72½ pts. respectively. In the latter part of the season, an extra irrigation would have made a marked difference in yield.

L. B. Pfeiffer, Woodside. This was the only entry of Up-to-date (71 pts.). Germination rather patchy, resulting in a low yield: 9 tons 110 lb. per acre, of which 85.75 per cent. was No. 1 grade and the remainder being 11.40 per cent. undersized and rejects, and 2.85 per cent. Potato Moth.

PEA SEED.

“Canners’ Perfection,” Equal to “Greenfeast” for Market Purposes.

Growers of Green Peas for market are concerned at the shortage of Greenfeast Pea seed for the main crop planting. The shortage is largely due to seasonal conditions causing low yields in seed Pea growing districts in both Australia and N.Z., particularly of the Greenfeast variety.

Stocks of Greenfeast and Wm. Massey seed are exhausted, and no further supplies will be available until January next.

Horticultural Officers of the Vic. Dept. of Agric. point out that, fortunately, there are supplies of the “Canners’ Perfection” variety. This variety is grown primarily for areas under contract for canning, but is quite suitable for growing as a market Pea. There is a natural disinclination to change over from a proved variety, but in view of the present situation, the Dept. has no hesitation in recommending “Canners’ Perfection” as a good substitute for Greenfeast for main crop sowings in all districts.

Sowing times and cultivation methods are the same for Canners’ Perfection as for Greenfeast. The pods on the vines remain in market condition for a week before becoming over-mature, giving a reasonable time for picking.

FORTUNE FROM CARROTS.

Harry Sawkins, who farms 125 acres on the banks of the Tumut River, southern N.S.W., produced 236 tons of first-grade Carrots which he sold for £3,540 from a ten-acre plot.

The paddock on which this phenomenal crop was grown had produced corn the year before.

He sowed in October last year, and, because the weather was dry, spray irrigated ten times with 3 inches of water. Harvesting began on May 28 and took five weeks. The crop was dehydrated.

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. T. L. Williams, recently announced that the initial consignments of agricultural machinery, under the Government’s £50,000 purchase scheme, were now arriving in Brisbane.

Allocation of machinery will be made on the recommendations of district committees. Preference will be given to purchases by co-operative groups of farmers in order to ensure that machines and implements will be used to their fullest capacity.

Particular attention has been given to the needs of vegetable production and the production of fodder for the dairy industry. It includes field and garden tractors, multiple mouldboards

and disc ploughs, special types of harrows, planters, power cultivators, power mowers, together with power dusting and spraying equipment, potato planters and diggers, and equipment for harvesting dry-shelled Beans, which will be available on lease.

FEEDING SOILS.

A few years ago there were large tracts of South Australian land that should have been producing food, but the soil was too poor.

Two soil research workers at the Winter School of Soil Science at the Waite Institute have told how the soil was made productive.

The method was to immerse seeds of legumes—Peas, Beans, Lucerne and Clover—in skim milk containing root-nodule bacteria.

The legumes were planted and the bacteria thus introduced into the soil acted as an inexpensive, nitrogenous fertilizer, instead of the expensive nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia.

The legume crops were then ploughed in to build up hungry soil, which could not otherwise be economically utilized.

Large tracts of good pasture have in this way been built up in Kangaroo Island, and thousands of acres in other parts of South Australia owe their fertility primarily to artificially introduced bacteria.

In N.S.W. the discovery of bacterial culture has opened up tens of thousands of acres of poor soil to profitable production. Soils that would normally be exhausted in twenty years would now last 50 years.

WINDY.

Two farmers, one from Oregon, the other from Illinois, were discussing terrible weather. The Oregon farmer told about the time the wind was so strong giant redwood trees were bent right down to the ground.

“That’s nothing,” said the Illinois farmer. “We had a wind of about 90 miles an hour in Illinois.” The wind was so bad that one of my hens had her back turned to it, and she laid the same egg six times.”

TOMATO CULTURE.

TOMATO SEEDLINGS should be properly hardened before planting out, stated Mr. W. Harris, Dept. of Agric., Shepparton, recently. Poison baits to control cutworms and vegetable weevil should be distributed in the fields: as an additional precaution the plants in the frames should be sprayed with arsenate of lead before being lifted. A further spraying or dusting with lead arsenate to plants when in the field was advisable.

For poison baits are the following formula: 24 lb. bran, 1 lb. Paris green (or ½ lb. arsenate of lead), ½ lb. common salt, and 3 gallons water. The bran, Paris green, and salt should be mixed thoroughly first, and the water then added to produce a damp, crumbly mash: 100 lb. of prepared bait was sufficient for an acre.

Some growers had success by dusting the plants with a mixture of lead arsenate and pollard (one part by weight lead arsenate to nine parts by weight of pollard). As pollard was in short supply, ground wheatmeal was an effective substitute.

VICTORIAN POTATO COSTS.

Potato contracts received by the Victorian Department of Agriculture for the year 1945-46 covered an area of approximately 87,815 acres, to be planted by 7,678 growers.

Deliveries 1944-45.

Deliveries of Potatoes during July approximated 27,000 tons, of which 2,700 were of stock-feed grade. This makes the total deliveries to date 153,000 tons. It is estimated that approximately 75,000 tons of marketable tubers remain on farms.

Prices.

The maximum subsidised price for No. 2 or No. 3 Grade is £8/10/- per ton. For Potatoes failing to command the maximum 3rd Grade price, a subsidy of 14/- in the £1 is paid on the actual realisation price. The price of No. 1 Grade Potatoes is £12/10/- or £12, according to variety. The maximum price of stock-food Potatoes remains at £8/10/- per ton to growers at loading stations.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IN N.S.W.

SUBSTANTIAL VEGETABLE production is assured from the figures just to hand from the Dept. of Agriculture. The target was the planting of 144,850 acres: the planting practically reached the target, but there was failure in approx. 22,000 acres. It was expected that yields would be for Potatoes 80,500 tons; Green Peas, 1,228,200 bus.; French and Navy Beans, 825,000 bus.; Carrots, 18,600 tons; Tomatoes, 1,878,300 half-cases; Pumpkins, 18,400 tons; Turnips, 13,000 tons; Cabbages, 933,600 doz.; also large quantities of Cauliflowers, Beet, Sweet Corn, Lettuce, Onions, Parsnips and other vegetables.

GIFT PARCELS FOR U.K.

The Vic. Dept. of Agric. is continuing its programme for sending parcels to U.K. The maximum weight is 5 lb., and each parcel will contain mixed dried fruits, Raisins, honey, cheese and meat. The cost, including postage, will be 10/6 for delivery to civilians and 7/6 to members of the overseas forces in the U.K., provided the full service address is given.

Orders will be accepted until further notice, for despatch at donor’s own risk to any address in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and should be forwarded together with the necessary remittance to the Director of Agriculture, Public Offices, Melbourne, C.2. Envelopes should be endorsed “Overseas Gifts.” As the number of parcels is limited to 20,000, early application is advised.

Orders for parcels to residents in Eire (Irish Free State) cannot be accepted because of the heavy customs duty in that country.

The British authorities will not permit the receipt of parcels at frequent intervals and only one order will be accepted at one time for each recipient.

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The Chamber is prepared to receive Consignments in Bulk lots for distribution to any of these Agents. No charge will be made to the Grower for this service. Further particulars from the Secretary, E. B. P. BROOKS, Exchange Chambers, Turbot Street, Brisbane. Telegraphic Address: “Chamberfruit,” B’ne.

S. AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY.

Export and Local Marketing.
Controls to Operate.

Export of Citrus, 1945 Season.

Up to July 25, 1945, 534,521 cases of citrus fruit were exported from S. Africa; 511,162 cases were shipped to the U.K., and 23,359 cases to other destinations, mostly on military orders. The export figures at this date in 1944 amounted to 26,236 cases, all of which fruit had been sent to destinations outside the U.K.

At date about 265,000 cases are held in the port cold stores, and it is expected, states the "Citrus Grower," that all this fruit will be shipped shortly. Arrangements are also being made for the shipment of a considerable quantity of Grapefruit to the U.K. in the near future; this will be the first export of Grapefruit since 1940. It is hoped to ship about 75,000 cases of Oranges to Sweden from July to October. This fruit will be shipped in vessels of the Swedish Line.

Post-war Marketing Policy.

Following on resolutions of the Citrus Board and the Citrus Exchange, in May, 1945, a committee co-opted certain packhouse managers and others with special knowledge of pooling and packing, and met in Pretoria in July, to consider the practical application of the resolution taken by the Citrus Board, and which reads:—

"This meeting is in favour of controlled distribution, both on the overseas and the local markets, with a system of pools by variety, count and grade, and possibly time, and with a penalty for waste within the control of the grower concerned."

Detailed plan is being prepared for submission to the Citrus Board in September and thereafter to all exporters for their consideration.

CHICKEN REARING.

There are several systems of artificial brooding of chickens, such as the battery, hot-water-pipe system, electrically heated hovers, and those heated by kerosene lamps. Those of the hover type, electrically operated, have given every satisfaction, especially from the point of view of simplicity of operation.

These hints are given by Mr. H. F. Clinton, Poultry Expert of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, who also points out that ideal conditions in rearing are obtained when the chicks are allowed a certain amount of freedom in healthy surroundings. This is provided by the use of open grass runs in front of the brooder house, and subsequent rearing in colony houses on free range, as soon as the chicks can do without artificial heat, which is approximately at four to six weeks of age, depending largely on the weather.

Brooders and brooder compartments should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before use, and the utmost cleanliness is essential in all subsequent operations. Rice hulls on the floor to a depth of one to two inches are ideal as litter for the chickens.

During brooding, chickens should be kept at the correct temperature for comfort, approximately 90 deg. Fahr. for the first week. No thermometer, however, is as good an indicator as the chickens themselves. Their actions will tell at once whether they are comfortable or not.

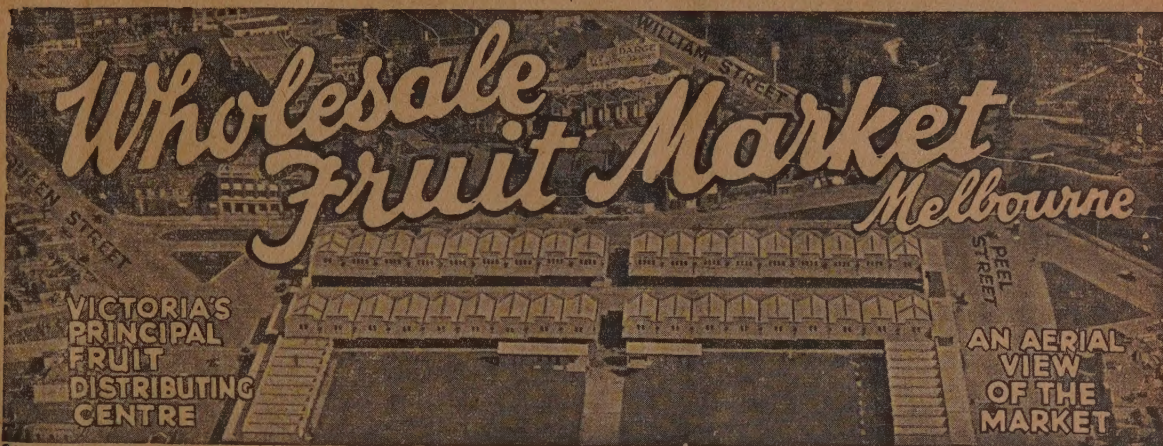
WATER CANNOT REPLACE MILK
AS A PIG FOOD.

In a case of unthrifty pigs recently investigated it was found that in the Summer the pigs were given a diet comprised almost entirely of separated milk, and as the milk supply diminished in the Winter, water was added to maintain the volume of food and drink given to the pigs.

Mr L. A. Downey, Pig Expert of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, points out that, when separated milk is the sole diet, a pig 100 lb. live weight consumes about four gallons daily and grows fairly well. If a pig of the same weight were fed dry foods, such as wheat-meal and meat-meal, however, it would eat about 4 lb. of these and would drink about one gallon of water daily.

The pig on the separated milk diet would be forced to drink about three

gallons of liquid more than it required, because there is only about 1 lb. of dry food in each gallon of separated milk. By adding water to separated milk, the feeder gives himself extra work and makes the pigs drink unwanted water, which retards their growth. The diminishing supply of milk should be supplemented by solid foods such as crushed wheat or pollard as available, 1 lb. of either replacing each gallon of separated milk.



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Market Notes and Prices

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (3/10/45).

The State Marketing Bureau reports:—

Fruit.

Supplies of Apples were extremely light and prompt clearances of daily stocks were effected mainly on a rationed basis. The principal variety was Democrat, but small quantities of Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Yates, Rokewood and Cleopatra were available on Tuesday, October 2. Some croftons were forward earlier in the period, but relatively few Granny Smiths were obtainable. At closing, the market was practically bare of fruit.

Further consignments of Pears received from Victoria included Packham's Triumph, Josephine, Winter Cole, Winter Nelis and Broompark varieties. Demand was keen for good quality lines and the maximum of 30/- per case was obtained for the best sizes of the three first-mentioned varieties. Rates for Winter Nelis and Broompark Pears were slightly lower. Very small-sized fruit and faulty packs were sold at a wide range of prices.

Passionfruit were in relatively light supply and rates for choice packs were firm, up to 35/- per half case being paid.

Ruling rates were:—Apples: Interstate, Democrat 29/-. Pears: Interstate, Packham's Triumph and Josephine 26/- to 30/-. Winter Nelis 24/- to 30/-. Broompark 16/- to 28/- (all quotes mainly nominal); very small sizes and faulty packs all varieties lower. Oranges: Valencias, Coastal,

to 20/-. Lemons: Coastal 13/- to 16/-, occasional sales 18/- per bushel case. Bananas, 7d. per lb., under grade and inferior lower. (Weight 80 to 96 lb. per case.) Passionfruit, 15/- to 30/-, occasional specials to 35/-. Avocados, 15/- to 20/- per half case. Papaws, 12/- to 20/-, few higher. Pineapples, 18/- to 21/3 per tropical case.

Vegetables.

Peas, 23/4; Beans, 25/-, inferior lower, per bushel; Cabbages, 18/- to 50/-; Cauliflowers, 18/- to 45/-, few small and inferior lower, per dozen; Marrows, 14/- to 16/- per tropical case; Lettuce, 5/- to 12/- per case; Carrots, 16/- to 25/-, inferior lower, per cwt.; Parsnips, 5/- to 7/- per dozen bunches, per cwt. basis, 12/- to 26/-, few higher; White Turnips, 3/- to 5/-; Rhubarb, 8/- to 15/-; Spinach, 12/- to 20/-; Celery (Local), 6/- to 15/-; Eschalots, 5/- to 6/-; Asparagus, 36/- to 48/-; Mint, 3/- to 4/-; Parsley, 9/- to 12/-; Raddishes, 3/- to 4/-; Beetroot, 3/- to 5/- per dozen bunches. Tomatoes: Glasshouse: 1st grade 22/-, other grades from 8/-; North Coast 14/- to 22/-; Queensland 8/- to 18/-, occasional sales to 22/-, inferior from 4/- per half case. Potatoes: 1st grade 7/10½. Onions (Queensland), white 23/6, brown 20/- to 23/6. Swedes 6/- to 8/-, choice washed 10/- to 12/-. Pumpkins, 12/- to 16/-. Sweet Potatoes, 16/- per cwt. Mushrooms (cultivated), 3/6 to 5/-, few higher, per lb.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (4/10/45).

French Beans were scarce in Queen Victoria wholesale market, and Peas were almost unobtainable. Cab-

bage and Cauliflower prices were easier. Vegetables were in good demand. Most Bananas were of poor quality. Apples were in light supply, and sales of fruit steady. Quotations:

Vegetables.

Asparagus, 8/- to 12/- for 100; Beans, Broad, 28/- to 34/- 50 lb., French 1/- to 1/4 lb. max., inferior lower; Beetroot, 9d. to 1/- doz., max. 17/- cwt.; Beet, Silver, 3/- to 4/- doz.; Cabbages, 6/- to 9/- doz., few to 10/-; Carrots, 3/- to 4/6 doz. bunches, max. 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- with tops; Cauliflowers, 12/- to 20/- doz., few to 22/-; Celery, 6/- to 8/- doz., Adelaide 16/- to 24/- double case; Cucumbers, 3/- to 5/- doz.; Garlic, 1/3 to 1/6 lb.; Horseradish, 1/- to 1/3 bundle; Leek, 3/- to 4/6 doz. bunches; Lettuce, 4/- to 8/- case; Mint, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; Melons, Citron, 6/- to 12/- doz.; Onions, green, 1/- to 2/6 doz. bunches, few spring to 3/-; Parsley, 2/- to 3/- do.; Parsnips, 3/- to 4/6 do., max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- with tops; Peas, to 40/- max., 48/- bag; Potatoes, 10/- to 11/- bag; Pumpkins, 9/- to 24/- doz.; Radish, 1/6 to 2/- doz. bunches; Rhubarb, 4/- to 5/- do.; Savoys, 5/- to 8/- doz.; Spinach, 5/- to 7/- doz. bunches; Tomatoes, 18/- to 22/- half case (max.); Turnips, 3/6 to 4/6 doz. bunches; Swedes, 10/- to 12/6 bag. 3/6 to 4/6 doz. bunches; Vegetable Marrows, 6/- to 8/- doz.

Fruit.

(Bushel case, unless stated.)

Apples, eating, 18/- to 26/-, few to 27/-; cooking, 16/- to 26/-, few Granny Smith to 27/-. Oranges, Navel and Valencias, to 20/6 (max.). Lemons, 14/- to 20/- (max.). Mandarins, to 25/6 (max.). Pears, dessert, Packhams, 18/- to 25/-; culin-

ary, 12/- to 20/-. Papaws, 25/- to 35/- double case. Bananas, to 7½d. lb. (max.). Pineapples, 14/- to 23/9 double case. Passionfruit, 18/- to 32/- half case, few to 35/-. Green Ginger, 1/6 lb.

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HOLIDAYS IN BRISBANE MARKETS.

In the Queensland Parliament in mid-September, the leader of the Opposition, Mr. G. F. R. Nicklin, moved for the disallowance of the ordinances of the Brisbane City Council in respect of certain holidays. At the present time, said Mr. Nicklin, authority was vested in the tenants of the markets in respect of holidays not specifically enumerated. In particular, the fixing of market holidays on certain Mondays caused much loss to growers of fruit and vegetables, and in convenience to consumers. Several other speakers supported the motion.

In reply the acting Premier, Mr. Hanlon, said that while the fruit-growers had established a case, he considered that other factors were involved. Better marketing facilities were needed, including improved cool storage facilities, for preference stores owned co-operatively by the growers. In the present instance the growers should put their case to the City Council. The motion was negatived.

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PEACHES 8/- EACH.

And Grapes 40/- per lb. in London.

A wholesale fruit market report from Covent Garden, London, at the end of June includes the following:—Cherries, 22/7½ per 28 lb. box and 103/3 per cwt.; Gooseberries, 49/- to 52/6 per cwt.; Black Grapes, 30/- to 32/6 per lb.; Muscats, 35/- to 40/- per lb.; Peaches, 7/- to 8/- each, small 2/- to 5/- each; Melons, 10/- to 30/-; Strawberries, 1/9 lb. and 103/3 per cwt.

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"I feel we have everything to gain and nothing to lose from a continuing and close co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States. Anything else would be nothing less than tragic blundering for both of us."—Edward Stettinius.



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THE FRUITGROWERS' AND PRIMARY PRODUCERS' DEFENCE LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA.

(The Editor, "Fruit World and Market Grower," Mel.)

Sir,—In your issue of Sept. a statement is made to the effect that the "Eastern Metropolitan Branch" was the largest branch of the league. We cannot understand this report, as we have never had a branch bearing the title of "Eastern Metropolitan Branch." Further, all metropolitan branches of the league are still actively engaged in work for the betterment of their members.

We would be pleased if you would place this correction in your October issue.—M. J. McKenzie, Hon. Sec.

EASTERN METROPOLITAN FRUITGROWERS.

At a largely attended meeting of growers, the Eastern Metropolitan Fruitgrowers' Association was recently founded. Mr. A. D. Finger is President, Mr. F. C. Pyke Vice-President, and Mr. G. E. Handasyde Secretary.

D.D.T.

Control by Commonwealth Proposed.

The Australian Agricultural Council at its recent meeting in Adelaide, resolved to urge the Commonwealth Government to control the preparation and sales of the insecticide D.D.T.

The Acting Minister for Commerce and Agric. (Mr. Forde) who was chairman of the Council, said that additional information was being sought.

BIG VICTORIAN FRUIT SHOW.

Box Hill, March, 1946.

Preparations are in hand for what is expected will be the biggest fruit show in the State of Victoria. This will be at Box Hill in March, 1946, Under the auspices of the Box Hill Horticultural Society. A comprehensive schedule is being compiled. The organiser of the fruit section, Mr. W. A. Thiele (Doncaster) states that substantial prizes have been offered by the Southern Victorian Pear Packing Co. Ltd., Blackburn (for packed cases of Apples and Pears) and others.

SYDNEY FRUIT AND VEGETABLE TRADE.

Office-bearers of the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries for the ensuing year were recently elected:—President, H. P. Woodward, M.L.A.; Deputy Pres., J. J. Mason; Vice-Presidents, A. C. Cooper and C. Smith; Hon. Treas., E. M. Wade.

HELP FOR SERVICEMEN.

Australian Comforts Fund asks all friends of servicemen and women to help the Australian Comforts Fund to maintain its work at full pressure until the last Australian is discharged.

"Until that day," said a spokesman, "the obligation on the home population to supply the things which brighten the lives of the fighting forces will continue. Many months will pass before the majority of Australia's over-sea troops are back with us."

ADVICE ON THE USE OF NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS.

Citrus growers in northern areas should make full use of the available rations of both nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia. This advice is given by Horticultural Officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture who point out, however, that where soils are alkaline or show any sign of salt accumulation, nitrate of soda should not be used for more than two seasons in succession.

As an allotment of sulphate of ammonia has been made for dried vine fruits, and most of the areas on which these are grown are alkaline, it is suggested that nitrate of soda should not be used, particularly if this fertilizer has been used in previous years. With expectations of a light crop in the coming season, vines will not be seriously affected by limiting the amount of nitrogenous fertilizer to 1½ cwt. per acre of sulphate of ammonia.

Canning-fruit growers will be allowed 1 cwt. per acre of sulphate of ammonia, but as this would be insufficient for the needs of the trees, and nitrate of soda is quite suitable for use in the canning-fruit areas, full use should be made of the ration of this fertilizer.

The allowance of 3 cwt. per acre of nitrate of soda is adequate to maintain the health of fruit trees in North-eastern, Harcourt, and Southern districts. This fertilizer is quite suitable for these districts, and growers should use their full ration.

Because of its ready availability it is better to apply nitrate of soda in a number of small doses, rather than apply the whole of the ration in a single application.

Maximum application at one time should be limited to 2 cwt. per acre. If more is available it should be applied about a month later. Sulphate of ammonia may be applied at the rate of 4 cwt. per acre at one application on citrus trees.

REGIONAL PLANNING.

Success of Tennessee Valley Authority.

Similar Possibilities in Australia and Other Countries.

THE SUCCESS of the Tennessee Valley Authority in U.S.A. has attracted world-wide attention. This great experiment in regional planning is based on the regulation

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SECTIONS
S. 41, 42
ROMA ST., MARKETS

MURRAY BROS

of a large waterway and its tributaries, the development of hydro-electric power, the utilisation of land resources and the stimulation of industry.

The eleventh annual report, for the year ended June 3th, 1944, gives details of the 22 dams, the generating of 2,000,000 kilowatts, regulation of the rivers for navigation (200,000,000 ton miles of freight were carried), development of fertiliser production, forestry and advising farmers on improved methods of agriculture. Power was sold at the low average price of less than 1d. per k.w., the nett income of over £3,500,000 represented 4 per cent. on the capital invested in the power branch.

The "Empire Producer" in discussing the foregoing, points out the possibilities of regional planning that also exist in the Murray and Murrumbidgee areas of Australia, the Severn Valley (England), the Vaal-Orange basin in South Africa, and the valleys of the Nile and Niger.

"Security is indispensable if we are to make true freedom possible. But it must be the product of time, of constant effort, of learning to work together, of practising and upholding accepted standards of international conduct."—Mr. Anthony Eden.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the
VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES,

the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)
Stand Numbers are as indicated in Parentheses.

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GOLDEN VALLEY FRUIT CO. PTY. LTD. (15).
J. W. ROSS (13).
H. M. WADE & CO. (21).
DAVID SMITH PTY. LTD. (3).
SILBERT SHARP & DAVIES PTY. LTD. (17).
WATKINS FRUIT COMPANY PTY. LTD. (5).
G. WOOLF & SONS (29-30).
E. CORNISH & SONS (5).
J. HYMAN & SON (51).
HERBERT WILSON PTY. LTD. (10).

FRANK BOOTH & SONS PTY. LTD. (16).
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H. LOUEY PANG & CO. PTY. LTD. (4).
D. MENTILAY & CO. PTY. LTD. (27).
WING YOUNG & CO. (38).
E. G. KING PTY. LTD. (2).
REGAN & KENNY (Successors to Wm. Sweeney) (33).
INTERNATIONAL FRUIT & MERCANTILE CO. (6).
D. S. LUCAS & CO. (9).
PRODUCERS' CO-OP. DISTRIBUTING SOCIETY LTD. (7).
R. A. WING & CO. (37).
YOUNG SANG (45).

Correspondence is invited by the Association.

Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne.
Phone: F 4866.

Seasonal Notes for Mildura District

(By A. V. Lyon, Commonwealth Research Station.)

The Sprouting of the Vines.

Sprouting has continued this year over rather a longer period than usual. The maximum temperatures for August, which influence the date of sprouting, were normal, and the first of the shoots emerged, as in other years, in the first few days of September, with the usual few shoots in late August. The September temperatures were very close to our average. At date of writing, the figures for the first eighteen days in September, average maximum 67.6 and average minimum 44.8, may be compared with average maximums of 68.2, 68.4, and 67.2; and minimums of 40.8, 44.6, and 44.3 for the first eighteen days of September in 1944, 1943 and 1942 respectively.

There appears to be nothing unusual in the weather this year, by which the extended sprouting period

may be explained. Possible explanations are watering over the sprouting period, which lowers the temperature of the soil, and also tends to promote growth on the shoots already out and retard the emergence and growth of the late shoots. It is possible also that the late development and persistence of growth of shoots last year has weakened the reserves of plant food in the vine. The possibility of this residual effect of drought damage has previously been noted.

Maximum growth is at present showing on the weak terminals. This is nothing unusual, but we are a little worried over the late emergence and slow growth of shoots on the main part of the cane. Shoot growth is not sufficiently advanced to permit an estimate of the potential crop; but it looks as though there is a satisfactory percentage of fruit shoots

among the advanced shoots on which the inflorescences are now showing. Further examinations will be possible later in the season.

The Fertilizer Position.

An improvement in supplies is very welcome this year, as the present appearance of the vines suggests that growth promotion by nitrogenous fertilizers will be of advantage. The users of blood and bone have unfortunately been disappointed; but the substitution of sulphate of ammonia, ammonium nitrate, and nitrate of soda, will do quite well. The preferences for different forms of nitrogenous fertilizer appears to be merely a matter of habit and tradition, as experiences and investigations indicate that all forms of nitrogen are of advantage. Some very successful growers pin their faith to blood and bone; while others equally successful prefer sulphate of ammonia. Nitrate of soda and ammonium nitrate are viewed in this district as war-time emergencies due to shortage of sulphate of ammonia. Present evi-

dence is that it is safest to base values on the unit value and percentage of nitrogen in the fertilizers. The preferences of growers can, however, be quite appreciated, and next season it is hoped that they will have a wider choice among the available supplies.

Nitrogenous fertilizers are applied in the wet ground following the first irrigation. It is best to avoid applications prior to irrigation, and also to avoid late applications which may affect flowering and setting. We have no evidence of harmful results from full applications of nitrogenous fertilizers after irrigation in early spring; but there are records of losses following heavy dressings late in the year.

Irrigation for Frost.

A follow-on irrigation after the first one, to extend the protection over a greater part of the spring frost period, has been carried out by many growers in the Mildura district. Irrigation does not provide immunity from frosts; but it does give added protection for some time, and so reduces the period during which damage has occurred. It is recognised that September irrigation does not give much protection for October frosts; but growers prefer to have the safeguard by irrigation for late September, as it is during this period that the chances of frost are greatest. It is not practicable to continuously protect frost pockets by irrigation, and in any case land damage and expense have to be considered.

For October frosts, direct heating is the accepted safeguard, excepting in those seasons when conditions call for general irrigation in October. This has happened only in years of heavy spring rains, which have not occurred in recent years.

Merbein (18/9/45).

AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS ASSOCIATION.

S. Aust. Conference at Barmera.

THE S.Aust. Conference of the A.D.F.A. was held at Barmera, River Murray, on September 20. Mr. H. D. Howie was elected Chairman. Delegates attended from Renmark, Waikerie, Berri, Barmera, Moorook and Kingston.

It was deemed necessary to maintain the production of Lexias and Walthams, and after a discussion on the decline of the quality of Lexias (particularly in Victoria), it was decided to ask the Federal Council to acquaint all growers with the disadvantages of the cold dip for the Gordo Grape, and to recommend the hot caustic soda dip.

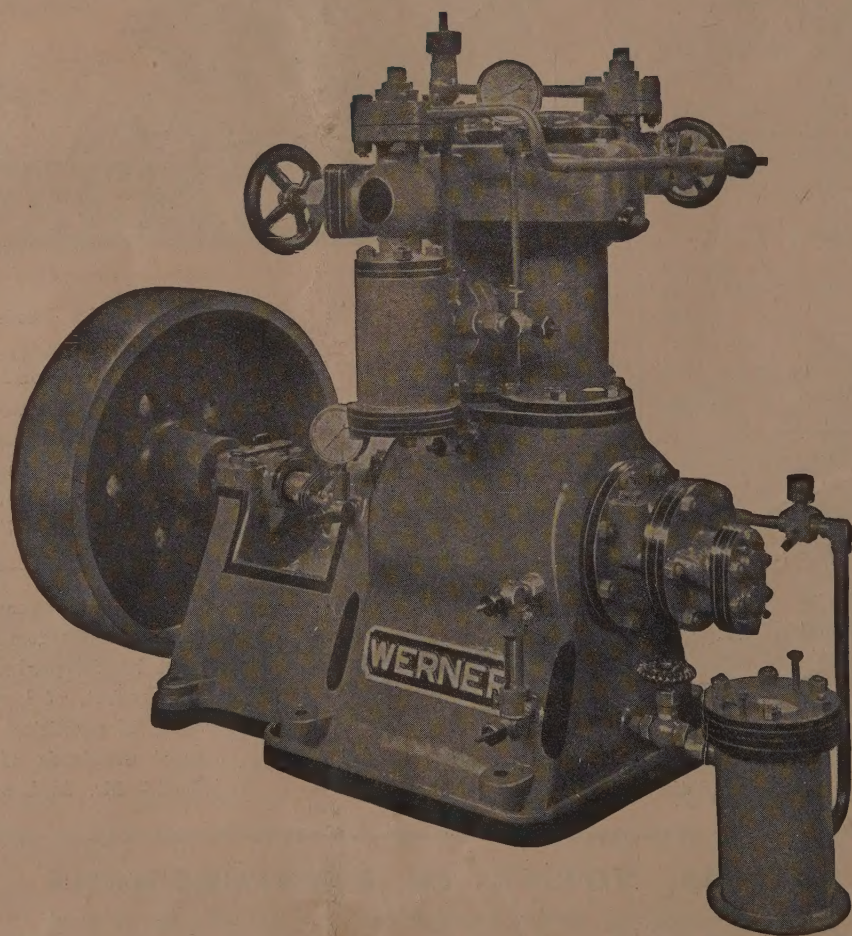
On the subject of rehabilitation of servicemen and the possibility of increased plantings, emphasis was laid on the necessity for maintaining the present Empire preferences. Only thus could those present in the industry carry on: no further plantings were justified until markets were found.

It was decided to recommend the appointment of a field officer to assist investigational work on frost prevention.

The benefit to be derived from a vigorous educational publicity campaign to increase sales was stressed.

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